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AER REPORT

Volume 12, No. 3

June 1995

Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired

The Results Are In!!

This year's election for regional representatives to serve on the AER International Board of Directors has concluded, and a sincere thank you is offered to everyone who voted. An overall return rate of 32% was achieved, with the highest percentage of cast ballots coming from the Northeast Region. The Northeasterners boasted a 47% regional return rate! AER welcomes the following individuals to serve on the Board during the 1995 - 1997 biennium:

Canadian Representative

Ann MacCuspie

Mid-Atlantic Representative

George Zimmerman

North Central Representative

Peggy Madera

Northeast Representative

Mary Beth Caruso

Northwest Representative

Wendy David

South Central Representative

Nancy Hall

Southeast Representative

Dan Brim

Southwest Representative

Frank Ryan

We bid a fond farewell to those who faithfully served on the Board for two (or more) years, and thank all the candidates who agreed to run for a position. (For a complete listing of the names, addresses and phone numbers of the members of the entire Board, please call or write the AER office.)

Jobs Consolidation Bill Passes First Hurdle by Kathleen Megivern

After months of speculation, rumors and generalities, the proposal to consolidate nearly 100 federal job training programs, including Title I of the Rehabilitation Act, has finally been introduced into the House of Representatives, "marked-up" by the relevant subcommittees, and reported out of the full Committee on Economic and Educational Opportunities. It is expected to come to the floor of the House for a vote by late June. While the Senate timetable is a bit later, as we go to press the Senate's legislative language is finally being drafted and expected to be available shortly.

The House bill, H.R. 1617, would create four separate block grants, one of them specifically for vocational rehabilitation services. While this proposal would protect rehabilitation funding levels and keep the rehabilitation money separate from other block grants, it would profoundly change the way in which rehabilitation services are delivered. Eighty percent (80%) of the rehabilitation dollars would go directly to local "workforce development boards" which will operate "one stop career centers." While states would have the discretion to maintain a rehabilitation agency (and even a separate agency for the blind, if they so choose), those agencies would be administrative entities, not service delivery entities. Earlier versions actually prohibited the state rehabilitation agency from delivering services, but the version which was reported out of committee allows for states to keep up to 20% of the money and in certain circumstances provide services which would otherwise be the responsibility of the "one stops." There seem to be two philosophies driving this push to include Title I in the one stop system. First, it is yet another manifestation of the inclusion movement and some proponents see it as an opportunity to dismantle the separate

(continued on p. 7)

See the Joint Statement dealing with jobs consolidation, endorsed by 14 blindness-related organizations, reprinted on pages 9-10.

Mission: To develop and promote professional excellence through support of those who provide services to people with visual impairments.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!!

Lynette Aberle (IL)
Christine Adams (NY)
Kimberly Ayers (IL)
Lizbeth Barclay (CA)
Teresa Barone (IL)
Marcia Beard (AR)
Karen Beuerlein (CA)
Lynne Blackett (Ontario)
Robbie Blaha (TX)
Lynn Blanchard (LA)
Barbara Blejewski (CT)
Carol Ostrander Boskin (NY)
Rhonda Butler (NY)
Jennifer Chamberlain (Ontario)
Lynne Chennells (Ontario)
Mona Childs (WV)
Susan Clark (LA)
Mary Clements (Ontario)
Emily Robbs Conover (AL)
Renate Couturier (Ontario)
Lee-Anne Cross (Ontario)
Kaye Cushing (OR)
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Thomas David (MA)
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James Distant (MA)
Mario Domingues (Ontario)
Terry Douglas (MI)
Susan Drewniak (MI)
Norma Drissel (MA)
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John Fencer Jr. (MA)
Linda Ferder (MT)
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Melanie Lamere (IL)
Maureen Latman (NY)
Kimberly LeHenaff (Ontario)
May Lebbie (CA)
Lenore Leonard (Ontario)
Randall Lucas (WV)
Ron Lucey (TX)
Joyce Mainland (Ontario)
Darla May (IL)
Michele McCain (CA)
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Lucy Memmo (VA)
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Lillie Starkey Nash (GA)
James Sullivan (OH)
Deidra Ortiz (CA)
Kathryn Ouzts (SC)
Donna Pletz Passey (Manitoba)
Sheila Pearlman (NY)
Pat Peirce (TX)
Kimberly Range (MI)
Gary Ray (NC)
Phillip Riffe (CA)
Marilyn Rosnick (Ontario)
Juanita Rossow (MI)
Amy Rubin (MA)
Melanie Rupert (PA)
Wendy Sapp (TN)

AER Report is published six times a year as a membership service. Regions, chapters, divisions and individual members are encouraged to submit items of interest for publication to:

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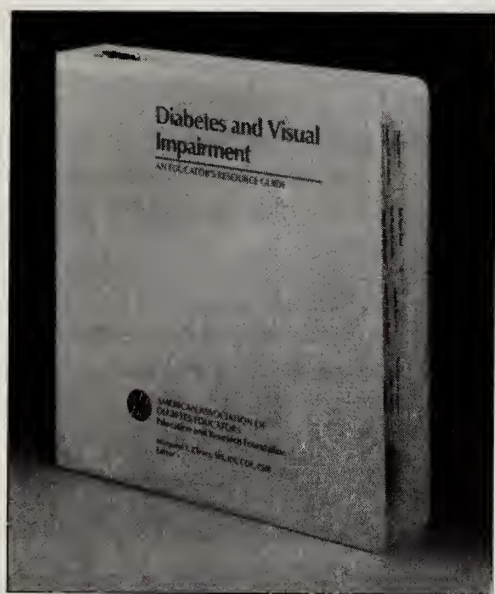
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The "Re-Engineering" of AER - Update!

In the February issue of *AER Report*, we printed a report on the initial efforts by the AER Board of Directors to reach consensus on possible restructuring of AER. As we move into our 11th year as a consolidated organization, it seemed timely to be looking at ways to improve communication and strengthen the governance of the association. At previous "AER-Lift" seminars, chapter presidents had let us know that they felt "out of the loop" and they requested that there be a specific chapter representative on the Board of Directors (similar to the Chairperson of the Council of Division Chairs who represents the divisions on the Board).

In addition to the specific question raised by the chapter presidents, there continued to be questions about the role of the regional representatives to the Board, whether there is a need for two separate representatives, one from education and one from rehabilitation/all services, the structure of the current regions, representation of all 18 divisions by only one person, etc.

As was reported in the February communication, the AER Board held a special meeting in January to examine these structural issues and try to find a consensus "vision" of what a better structured, more effective AER might look like. That document was shared with the entire membership through the newsletter and it was a topic of special sessions held during the most recent "AER-Lift Leadership Training Seminar. A few consensus points emerged from these sessions, as well. There was broad agreement that we should have a separately elected Secretary and Treasurer on the international Board of Directors. There seemed to be agreement that broader division representation was also desirable. As always, there was consensus that the number and varying nature of the division needs somehow to be re-worked. Different break-out groups at AER-Lift came up with widely varying visions of AER and while the Board's "consensus document" had served its function as conversation starter, there emerged no clear consensus on many of the details.

So, what's next? The Board of Directors has charged a small group of Board members to review the information gathered from chapter presidents and division representatives at AER-Lift. That group will then attempt to synthesize this information, find the consensus points and develop several different "models" for re-structuring. These models will be reviewed by the Board at their fall meeting and if agreement emerges, we'll be ready for the next step - sharing of a preferred model with the chapters and divisions, with a formal request for feedback.

Any structural changes will, of course, require a final vote by the membership on new bylaws. In the meantime, we continue to seek your input and welcome any thoughts or comments about AER's structure and governance. Please send your ideas to the AER office and they will be shared with the Board's working group during the coming weeks.

AER Membership Drive

The 1995/96 membership drive is designed to involve members using a one-on-one focus. All current AER members are encouraged to help recruit new members, and in return receive a \$5.00 discount (per new member recruited) off the cost of registration for the 1996 AER international conference in St. Louis, Missouri. In order to receive credit for sponsoring the new member, **the current member only needs to sign the new member's application form and record their own AER membership number after their signature.** Once the application is received in the AER office, the sponsorship will be recorded by the staff. Please keep track of the names of your new recruits also.

The following rules apply to this membership campaign:

The \$5.00 credit may only be used toward the registration fee for the 1996 AER international conference. If you are unable to attend the conference, you will not be allowed to substitute the credit toward any other AER event, publication, or membership dues.

Credit awarded to any individual member will be limited to the amount of one conference registration. If you receive credit over and above the cost of your registration, the credit may not be transferred to another member and no "refund" will be issued.

Only current members will be awarded credit and only current members may use credit toward their registration fees. If you allow your own membership to lapse during the year, you will not earn credit for recruiting a new member.

A current member may sponsor the return of a lapsed member and receive credit, but only if that "returning" member has been a non-member for more than one year.

The contest will run from June 1, 1995 to June 1, 1996. Only those applications received at the AER office by June 1, 1996 will be considered for this contest.

People on the Move...

Frances Mary D'Andrea, AER member and former itinerant teacher with Fulton County Schools, has been appointed to serve as Project Coordinator of the American Foundation for the Blind's *Braille Literacy Mentors in Training: The Next Generation* program. Ms. D'Andrea is also Team Leader of AFB's National Initiative on Literacy. She is based in their Atlanta, Georgia office.

AER member **Noel Stephens** has been named Principal of the Alabama School for the Blind, and will officially assume his new duties on May 15, 1995. Mr. Stephens has been at the Arizona State Schools for the Deaf and the Blind since 1977.

AER member **Cathy Mack** has recently joined Arkenstone, Inc. in Sunnyvale, California as Field Sales Manager.

Helen Keller National Center announces that AER member **Maureen McGowan** is now employed as its Rocky Mountain Region Representative.

The Northeast Region of AER presented awards to four of its outstanding members in the latter part of 1994: **Nancy Campbell** was presented with the Excellence in Rehabilitation Award; **Thomas Miller** received the Excellence in Education Award; and **Kevin Lessard** was given the Dr. Thomas Caulfield Award. Congratulations!

AER member **Judy Covert** became the first recipient of The Clovernook Center's newly established President's Achievement Award, which honors an employee for a significant contribution to The Center during the past year.

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RE:sources

From Jean Martin:

The Minnesota Braille Skills Inventory (MBSI) is a newly developed diagnostic tool used to evaluate braille reading and writing skills. Organized into sections, the MBSI addresses six different areas of braille code knowledge: literary; basic Nemeth; advanced Nemeth; computer; music and dictionary/foreign language. The two volume set consists of a *Resource Manual* and *Student Companion*; both volumes are necessary for the administration of the inventory to students. The MBSI is available for purchase in print and braille (3 volumes), and may be ordered by contacting: Paul Fehlen, Minnesota Educational Services, 70 W. County Rd. B2, Little Canada, MN 55117; (612) 483-4442.

From The Seeing Eye, Inc.:

To meet the needs of newly blinded people and their families and friends, The Seeing Eye, Inc. has produced a comprehensive multi-media package. *Choices: Living with Vision Loss* is a 23 minute video and *If Blindness Occurs* is a large print booklet. The package may be ordered by calling or writing: The Seeing Eye, P.O. Box 375, Morristown, NJ 07963-0375; (201) 539-4425.

From the American Foundation for the Blind:

AFB announces a series of braille literacy mentors-in-training workshops, partially funded through the U.S. Department of Education's Rehabilitation Services Administration. The workshops are intended to provide experienced special education and rehabilitation teachers with skills in mentoring and providing inservice training in braille literacy to less experienced teachers in their home areas. Applicants will be asked how they plan to apply their training and will have an opportunity to work on an inservice proposal during the training. The workshops will be held from August through October in four difference locations throughout the United States. For a complete schedule and application materials, please

contact: Braille Literacy Mentors in Training, American Foundation for the Blind, 100 Peachtree St., Ste. 620, Atlanta, GA 30303; (404) 525-2303.

From Twin Peaks Press:

Resources The Disabled Can Use to Acquire and Fund Computers is a report which includes information on grant sources, programs, services, technology-related assistance, where to purchase computers at a discount, and where to obtain information about companies that produce special computer-related products. To order, send \$5.00 (print) or \$8.00 (cassette), along with your name and address and the words "computer report" to: Twin Peaks Press, P.O. Box 129, Vancouver, WA 98666; (360) 694-2462.

From AER:

AER announces the availability of a national study, *The Parent Perspective on Schools for Students who are Blind and Visually Impaired*, by Anne L. Corn, Michael J. Bina and Linda B. DePriest. The study analyzes the responses of nearly 1,000 families with children who attend special schools for the blind and contains vital information for those who are concerned about preserving the continuum of placement options in the federal special education law. *The Parent Perspective* is filled with important demographic, placement, program and satisfaction data and includes unsolicited comments from survey participants. Individual copies are available for \$19.95 (U.S. funds), which includes shipping and handling. Discounts are offered for multiple copies (2-5 copies are \$15.00 apiece, six or more copies are \$12.00 each). Send all orders to: AER, 206 N. Washington St., Ste. 320, Alexandria, VA 22314. All sales are final.

(Jobs Consolidation continued from page 1)

system which currently keeps people with disabilities "segregated" from broader job training programs. But what seems to be at the heart of the issue for most Republicans is the anti-government, pro-privatization sentiments which are surfacing in so many different areas.

A Heated Mark-Up!

Nowhere were these attitudes more apparent than at the Committee on Economic and Educational Opportunities mark-up of H.R. 1617. Rep. Major Owens (D, NY) offered an amendment which would have provided linkages between Title I of the Rehabilitation Act and the one stop system, but would have preserved the current system pretty much "as is." First-term Republican Frank Riggs from California stated the issue as being a simple choice between continuing "the 75 year old monopoly which allows states to support large, inefficient bureaucracies" versus creating a better system which is market driven and consumer controlled. Congressman Owens tried to point out the fact that consumers, at least those who are represented by organizations, don't want this privatized system and he indicated that he had a list of 45 disability organizations which are opposed to including Title I of the Rehabilitation Act in H.R. 1617. [All blindness-related organizations, including AER, were on that list because of the position paper which is reprinted on p. 9.] The amendment offered by Congressman Owens was defeated on a straight party-line vote with all of the Democrats voting for the

Owens substitute and all of the Republicans voting against it. Rep. Gene Green (D, TX) then offered a simpler amendment which would have removed the entire title dealing with rehabilitation from H.R. 1617 and this, too, failed on a party-line vote.

The day after the Committee's mark-up, representatives of AER, the American Council of the Blind, the American Foundation for the Blind, the National Federation of the Blind and National Industries for the Blind were called to a meeting in Rep. Howard McKeon's office. Congressman McKeon, who chairs the Subcommittee which drafted the rehabilitation section of H.R. 1617, expressed his desire to work with the blindness organizations to improve the legislation, presumably with the goal of gaining our support. While the Congressman and his staff genuinely seemed to want to make changes in the bill, their "bottom line" goal was clear: to bring about profound change in the current rehabilitation service delivery system. They also made it clear that while there may have been Democratic efforts to amend the bill, the final Committee vote was 29 to 5 in support of H.R. 1617 and they have every reason to expect that there will be bipartisan support for this legislation on the floor of the House.

The Senate Shifts Direction

As many problems as there were with the House version, for months it had appeared as if the House approach would be far preferable to what the Senate was contemplating. A discussion draft of the proposal being considered by Senator Nancy Kassebaum (R, KS) caused quite a furor when it "hit the streets" in late April. While it seemed to

maintain a separate funding stream for rehabilitation, it contained no guarantees about how much that funding would be, and it specified that all of the money was to go to client services with any administrative costs for operation of the state agency coming from the larger block grant. Eligibility for rehabilitation services would have been established by each state and services were to be offered on a "first come, first served" basis. In addition, the Kassebaum discussion draft called for the complete elimination of the Rehabilitation Services Administration. Up until mid-May, it appeared as if Senator Kassebaum was unmoveable on her determination to include rehabilitation in the larger block grant, with very little room for negotiation.

Then, on May 15th, a memorandum from Pat Morrissey (Staff Director of the Subcommittee on Disability Policy) and Wendy Cramer (Professional Staff to the full Committee on Labor and Human Resources) outlined a very different approach. While talking about a "seamless" job training system, the memo indicated that Senator Kassebaum's bill would allow states the discretion as to how they tie the existing state rehabilitation system into the one stop system. They still envision persons with mild disabilities receiving their job and placement services at the one stop centers, but for those with more severe disabilities there would remain the possibility of a state rehabilitation services delivery system.

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JOINT STATEMENT OF ORGANIZATIONS OF AND FOR THE BLIND

Bills to consolidate employment and training programs being considered by the 104th Congress are so far-reaching that rehabilitation services for blind and visually impaired individuals could be absorbed into the generic job training and employment service system. This would mean that both responsibility and funding for specialized services needed by people who are blind or visually impaired -- a comparatively small population -- would be merged with much larger, generic programs for millions of people who are unemployed. It would also mean a merger of unrelated programs -- rehabilitation for persons with disabilities, on the one hand, and training and employment services for the unemployed, on the other.

Under existing law, Title I of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 provides all states with a dedicated block of federal funding for the sole purpose of assisting people with disabilities to achieve individualized rehabilitation goals. However, both the dedicated funding and the resulting specialized services would be diminished through consolidation. It is a matter of historical fact that state agency organizations and service delivery patterns tend to mirror the pattern of federal financial assistance. Moreover, the combination of programs will inevitably favor the largest and best understood needs to be met. Unique services for persons with disabilities will suffer.

The consolidation or block grant approaches are based on the theory that virtually everyone who is unemployed for whatever reason can be served best under one central authority. According to this view the administration and delivery of services to assist persons with disabilities are essentially the same as services to dislocated workers or unemployed welfare recipients.

This plan simply would not work. The need of a person who is newly blinded or who has not received effective rehabilitation services are drastically different from those of the typical unemployed worker. For example, the following essential rehabilitation services needed by blind individuals are not available from, and are completely unrelated to, generic job training and employment programs:

1. **Travel training** in using the white cane or the guide dog is essential for success in vocational training or employment. This training must encompass how to assess the environment without seeing one's surroundings.
2. **Adaptive methods** of reading, writing, and information access are prerequisites for success in the workplace. Braille, for example, is a system of reading and writing which depends upon the tactile identification of raised dots. The extent of training needed will vary in complexity from learning the basic braille code (including almost 200 contractions or special symbols commonly in use) to specialized notations for computers, foreign languages, music, math and other disciplines.
3. **Assistive technology** is an essential tool for blind persons in employment. High- or low-tech adaptations include use of specially adapted synthetic speech devices for computers, screen enlargement programs, braille computer terminals, closed-circuit television or other magnification devices, reading machines, or scanners. These services must include identification of the appropriate technology to meet the needs of the individual and the employer and provision of training in its use. Title I is the only funding source for this service.
4. **Daily living skills training** is directly related to employment, inasmuch as blind and visually impaired persons without these skills will not be able to function effectively in an employment setting. Such training includes alternative skills for personal and home management such as grooming, cooking, shopping, getting to work and many other ordinary things that sighted persons take for granted.
5. **Adjustment to blindness** is essential to an individual's eventual success in seeking and holding a job. Effective rehabilitation counseling helps blind and visually impaired persons overcome fears and develop confidence in their newfound skills. They learn to understand employer attitudes about blindness and how to deal with them effectively.

Title I of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 is essentially the only source of funding for these services. Moreover, Title I is the principal resource for funding to establish vending facilities operated by the blind in public buildings. Unlike some services to persons with disabilities, which may often be of a medical nature, programs for the blind cannot avail themselves of third-party reimbursement in most instances. With the consolidation of Title I into the generic job training and employment service system, most if not all of the dedicated resources now available under Title I would be gone. continued on next page>>

(continued from previous page)

We support consolidation of generic job training and placement programs and would like to see effective collaboration between them and the existing public rehabilitation program. Title I of the Rehabilitation Act, as currently structured, provides an effective mechanism for full integration of blind and visually impaired persons into the nation's workforce. The public and private programs funded under it possess the knowledge, technical expertise, and financial resources which are essential to make this integration possible.

For the reasons set forth in this statement, the undersigned agencies and organizations urge that changes in Title I of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 not be made at this time. We support continued federal leadership in a partnership with the states for targeted programs to assist persons with disabilities, including specialized services for individuals who are blind or visually impaired.

CONCURRING AGENCIES/ORGANIZATIONS

American Association for the Deaf-Blind (AADB)
American Council of the Blind (ACB)
American Foundation for the Blind (AFB)
Association for Education & Rehabilitation of the Blind & Visually Impaired (AER)
Blinded Veterans Association (BVA)
General Council of Workshops for the Blind (GCWB)
Helen Keller National Center for Deaf-Blind Youths & Adults (HKNC), including National Family Association for the Deaf-Blind (NFADB)
National Association for Parents of the Visually Impaired (NAPVI)
National Council of Private Agencies for the Blind and Visually Impaired (NCPABVI)
National Council of State Agencies for the Blind (NCSAB)
National Federation of the Blind (NFB)
National Industries for the Blind (NIB)
National Organization of Parents of Blind Children (NOPBC)



(Jobs Consolidation continued from page 7)

"Senator Kassebaum leaves to the governors' discretion the design of the seamless job training system. Therefore vocational rehabilitation services for individuals with severe disabilities, who need more than the core job training services, may or may not be provided in the same facilities as core services. The key is that individuals receive job training and placement assistance, not that all services they receive occur in one location."

As we go to press, the Senate legislative language is expected to be available "momentarily." Depending on how much discretion is left with the governors, the Senate approach could also prove problematic, but it gives us the first hint of a possibility that the existing rehabilitation system might survive this Congressional push for consolidation of federal job training programs.

A Bird's Eye View: One Member's Impressions of AER-Lift 1995

by: Susan J. Weber, Nebraska Chapter President

Being a newcomer to AER and assuming the job of President-Elect [of the Nebraska chapter] shortly after joining, I was particularly interested in attending the second annual AER-Lift meeting in April 1994 in St. Louis. That weekend of meetings gave me a sense of what the organization stood for as well as providing an opportunity for introduction to the leadership and staff of AER. I had already begun to network at my own chapter level and because of AER-Lift, I was able to put some names with faces and begin networking with fellow members across the U.S. and Canada. I remember wishing that both the chapter president and president-elect had opted to attend this valuable leadership training event.

Many of us felt fortunate that AER-Lift was offered once again this year, this time in Alexandria, Virginia the first weekend in May. I felt doubly fortunate as I returned this year as chapter president not only to take advantage of the leadership training, but also meet the AER staff on their home turf at the offices located in historic Old Town Alexandria.

One of the most fun activities of the weekend happened that first evening as attendees from the different U.S. states and Canadian provinces and territories introduced themselves and displayed items they brought from their home states or provinces to exchange with other attendees. Beth Caruso from Massachusetts was the recipient of a Dorchester United Methodist Cookbook and a Nebraska #1 national championship football

bumper sticker which I had brought, and I received a purple Penn State football mug from Frank Irzyk of the Penn/Del chapter. It was a wonderful ice breaker and a nice personal way to begin to get to know the group.

During the first evening, AER President Barbara McCarthy gave an overview of the current structure of AER and Executive Director Kathleen Megivern introduced the staff of five and described everyone's roles within the central office.

When we finished that evening, I met my roommate, Sharon Maida, President of the New Jersey chapter. We discovered that both of us had been in St. Louis the previous year and shared a lovely spring walk one afternoon!

Saturday brought a full day of activity. The Council of Division Chairs had their own meeting while the chapter presidents took advantage of concurrent training sessions focusing on: how to run a board meeting; chapter conference planning; chapter issues; membership recruitment and retention; and newsletter writing. The sessions were all good, but I was particularly impressed with Dona Sauerburger's presentation on newsletters. She shared how her own chapter's newsletter production had evolved over the past 15 or so years.

All participants gathered together at noon for a special session led by AER Board member Carol Allman

on "Coming to Consensus." Carol led the group through a series of handouts designed to help groups with differing points of view reach resolution in order to move forward. This is a session worth presenting at every local conference or staff development/in-service events!

Saturday afternoon's sole focus was on AER and re-structuring issues. Several work groups met and discussed the mission of AER and brainstormed on options for the future. Each sub-group then reported on its work before the whole group, and notes were compiled for the Board's reflection and consideration.

Late Saturday afternoon, many of the attendees walked several blocks from the hotel to the AER central office in order to tour the facility. It was fun to see where the staff works and how they make each office reflect their own personality. Looking at all the storage shelves, I realized how much the AER members get for their money in terms of the limited number of staff that operates the business for an international organization of over 5,000 members! Following the tour, the group continued on to the China King Restaurant for a delicious six course meal, the highlight of which was a whole fish served at each table. More networking and frivolity took place in this relaxed atmosphere. I was able to learn more about the Seeing Eye in Morristown, New Jersey from Jay Stiteley while dining.

continued on next page>>

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By Sunday morning, I was able to put more names with faces, identify who had been at the previous AER-Lift meeting, and recognize all the staff and many of the Board members. I was also given the opportunity to meet in person many of the people I had only spoken to over the telephone through North Central Region conference calls over the past couple of years.

The final part of AER-Lift consisted of small group discussions of the following issues: braille literacy, third party payment, and O&M issues. I attended the braille literacy session and found it affirming to find that other states were raising similar questions about the National Literary Braille Competency Test as well as the proposed braille literacy amendment to be attached to IDEA [Individuals with Disabilities Education Act]. I found Kathy Megivern's comments on the tone of Congress to be very alarming and plan to pay much closer attention to her legislative updates in future issues of *AER Report*.

By noon, all the participants said their farewells. As I, along with Carmen Suminski of North Dakota, took a sightseeing boat tour on the Potomac River from Alexandria north to Georgetown and back, final thoughts of AER-Lift 1995 went through my mind. Wasn't the musical skit written and performed by Peggy Madera and Leslee Williams of Illinois great? Wouldn't it be neat to sit down with Mike Bina from Indiana for an hour or two to pick his brain on why and how he came up with the original idea for AER-Lift? How did AER President-Elect Sharon Sacks from the San Francisco area and Chair of the Council of Chapter Presidents Peggy Madera

from the Chicago area coordinate efforts to run this extremely well organized, time efficient, information-filled weekend in Alexandria, Virginia? How is the re-structuring of AER ever going to happen, even with the aid of "Coming to Consensus" materials? AND, how am I going to be able to figure out a way to take part in future AER-Lifts once I am no longer a chapter president??

It was a tremendous experience. I came back home to Nebraska to my chapter membership of 40 with more than I will ever be able to adequately share during my term. Thanks, everyone! And thanks to Kathleen Newman from Nebraska who convinced me to run for office at the chapter level!

Here's what some of the other attendees had to say about AER-Lift 1995:

Excellent job!! Good food, better workshops, and great people.

AER-Lift should be established as an AER tradition. Chapter leaders need this contact with each other and this kind of training.

The entire agenda for the session has provided a wealth of information that will enable me to work with my chapter and now I have some idea as to what is expected of me.

I appreciated being able to see the AER offices and meeting all the staff.

The conference was well put together - educational, thought-provoking and fun. The information I take back to my state will help increase the chapter's visibility.

Historical Facts About St. Louis

St. Louis was founded in 1764 by Pierre Laclede as an Indian trading post and named after Louis IX. When Louis and Clark pushed off in 1804 to explore the west, St. Louis' position as the "Gateway to the West" was assured. Sternwheelers began to appear after 1815 to make St. Louis an important river port. By 1860, the population had exceeded 160,000, making St. Louis the third largest city in the nation.

Today, St. Louis boasts a world-famous symphony, science center, art museum, botanical garden and zoo, and a dozen Fortune 500 companies. European roots are still strong here - in neighborhoods, restaurants and attractions. But, most of all, St. Louis is its people - warm, friendly and varied.

**Join us at the Adams Mark Hotel
for the AER International
Conference from July 20 - 24,
1996!**

Timing of IDEA Reauthorization Still Unclear

by Kathleen Megivern

Despite earlier talk of a simple one-year extension for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), both the House and the Senate are seeking input, moving forward with hearings and acting very much as if they expect to complete consideration by the September 30th deadline. The hearings schedule began with a joint House-Senate session which reviewed the legal and constitutional bases for IDEA. Then the Senate held two days of informational hearings on May 11th and 16th. The May 11th hearing started off with a panel of students and recent graduates and the Senators clearly were impressed with the testimony of these young people. Included on that panel was Jaimi Laird, a graduate of Perkins School for the Blind in Massachusetts. Ms. Laird testified, with her former teacher Steve Perrault serving as interpreter, to the value of specialized services and training which she received in her educational experience. The Senate has asked for additional input from advocates on sixteen "critical issue areas" which they hope to cover in staff briefings during the month of June. Also in June, the House of Representatives plans two days of hearings.

A Brighter Outlook for Special Education

All things are relative and "good news" for education or human service programs has been hard to find around Washington, D.C. Nonetheless, some of the initial rhetoric around the issue of special education seems to have cooled.

We all remember that "briefing book" from the Heritage Foundation which was prepared for incoming members of Congress and called for the repeal of IDEA. Well, even the Heritage Foundation has backed off in the face of fury from parents and advocates for special education. Their more detailed policy book contains all kinds of education-related recommendations, but there is no longer any mention of IDEA! Likewise, even the most extreme proposals to get the federal government out of the business of education acknowledges a continuing role in special education. (One bill, which would abolish the Department of Education and "block grant" most K-12 federal money, would move special education into the Department of Health and Human services.)

There continue to be "hot button" issues, probably the hottest of which is discipline. Organizations as diverse as the American Federation of Teachers and the National School Boards Association seem to have reached the conclusion that some major portion of the chaos and violence in our public schools is the fault of kids with disabilities and is aggravated by IDEA's "stay put rule." Other issues, identified by both House and Senate staffers as being of concern include the current funding formula, eligibility criteria (categories and labels), consolidation of the 14 discretionary programs and mediation as a way to decrease litigation.

Unlike budget and other areas where the Administration's version of legislation is "dead on arrival," the reauthorization of IDEA may

turn out to be a genuinely bipartisan effort. There are indications from both the House and Senate that they are looking forward to receiving the President's proposals and will give them serious consideration.

Because the same committees and staff people are dealing with both IDEA and the jobs consolidation proposals, the timeline on IDEA continues to slip. However, if they do in fact succeed in finishing work on the jobs consolidation effort by mid-July, things could begin to move fairly rapidly on reauthorization of IDEA. We'll keep you posted!!



**Want to register for one of these AER-line teleseminars?
There's still time!!!**

September 15th @ 1:00 p.m. ET
"Illuminating the Way to Better Vision" by Elaine Holyoak

October 6th @ 2:00 p.m. ET
"Informed Decision Making: Helping Visually Impaired Persons Identify the Good, the Bad, and the Best Choices" by Sandy Ruconich

November 3rd @ 12:00 noon ET
"Parents with Difficult Children and Children with Difficult Parents" by Jim Warnke

Call or FAX the AER office! Phone: (703) 548-1884. FAX (703) 683-2926. Have your VISA, MasterCard or purchase order number available. Or you may mail your registration form if paying by check or money order.

Space is limited to 18 registrants. Each teleseminar lasts 50 minutes with time for questions and answers. All you need is a telephone!

This is a great way to access continuing education opportunities. You don't have to travel to a specific site - just give us the telephone number where the operator can reach you at that time. You will need to commit an hour of your time to participate (in a comfortable chair, of course).

Everything is included in one low fee; there is no long distance charge. AER members pay only \$59 (non-members pay \$99). After the teleseminar you will receive a cassette tape of the teleseminar (provided the presenter gives us permission to record) and a certificate of participation.

Take this opportunity to speak with an expert and interact with other colleagues from North America. What a great way to spend an hour of your time!

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• • • • • **ABSTRACTS** • • • • •

Persons wishing to submit proposals for presentation at this conference must
send an abstract, no longer than **500 words**, by **July 15, 1995** to:

Alan J. Koenig, Texas Tech University, Programs in Visual Impairments, College of Education,
Box 41071, Lubbock, TX 79409-1071 • E-Mail: P6AJK@TTACS.TTU.EDU

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AER REPORT

Volume 13, No. 2

April 1996

Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired

How Members Can Get More Involved

Members are the lifeblood of associations everywhere. And associations exist to address their members' top challenges. Who knows these issues better than you? That is why volunteering your knowledge and experience to the association is so important and gratifying.

AER President-Elect, Sharon Sacks, in preparation for her two year term as President, is looking for committed, energetic people to serve on AER's standing and ad hoc committees. If you are interested in serving, let Sharon know! You may contact her at the following address and phone number: 1109 Wisteria Dr., Fremont, CA 94539-4752; (510) 490-9050. And be sure to tell Sharon which committee(s) most interest you.

AER's standing committees are:

- Bylaws and Structure Committee
- Certification Review Committee
- Continuing Education Committee
- Finance Committee
- Legislative Committee
- Membership Committee
- Nominations Committee
- Publications Committee
- Scholarship Committee

AER's ad hoc committees are:

- Awards Committee
- History and Memorial Committee
- Professional Personnel Recruitment Committee
- Resolutions Committee

By volunteering for the association, you increase your exposure within the field, and you contribute to the field's overall advancement. Most importantly, you make the association yours!

Legislative Round-Up

by Kathy Megivern

IDEA STARTS TO MOVE

After months of languishing on the back burner, the reauthorization of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) is suddenly very much on the front burner -- and heating up fast! On February 26th, a bill to reauthorize IDEA was introduced by Senators Bill Frist (R, TN) and Tom Harkin (D, IA). The ink was barely dry on S. 1578 when the negotiations and amendments began. The full Committee on Labor and Human Resources scheduled a "mark-up" of the bill for March 20th (that mark-up process was postponed by one day and happened on March 21st). In the days leading up to the Committee mark-up, advocates were busy putting out fires and responding to one rumor after another about potentially negative and weakening amendments. What became very clear was that the lobbying effort by the National School Boards Association (NSBA) had gotten the attention of several influential Senators, including Senator Nancy Kassebaum (R, KS), Chairperson of the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

Things which had previously seemed non-controversial, such as language to include orientation and mobility in the list of related services in the law, suddenly were being questioned. The NSBA had taken the position that this was a "new" related service which was being mandated and, needless to say, this is not a good climate in which to be mandating any new services. Blindness advocates, with the help and support of the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities, managed to explain to those staffers who questioned this amendment that it was not a "new" service but merely an effort to codify current practice. Senator Kassebaum's staff was interested in an amendment which would have added "educationally related" prior to the words "orientation and mobility." This was viewed as an effort to limit these services and we were able to convince them not to offer such language at the mark-up.

(continued on p. 2)

Mission: To develop and promote professional excellence through support of those who provide services to people with visual impairments.

Legislative Round-Up

(continued from p. 1)

The NSBA also had lobbied hard against any new requirements being added to the Individualized Education Plan (IEP). The draft of S. 1578, as introduced, included several paragraphs which called for the IEP team to consider certain issues including a paragraph which said that "in the case of a child who is blind or visually impaired, [the IEP team shall] consider whether the child needs instruction in braille or in the use of braille." Except for one paragraph which called for a behavior management plan in the case of a child with behavioral problems, all of the paragraphs relating to the IEP were removed from the bill and will, supposedly, be included in report language.

Clearly, the most hotly contested issue has been whether to include harsh new language on the topic of "discipline." The version which was reported out of the Committee included compromise language which is more limiting than the disability community would have liked and less severe than the NSBA and others were hoping for. Like all good compromises, it pleases no one!

Other troublesome amendments were offered around issues of cost and ways to shift the cost of special education and related services away from the local education agency (LEA). Senator Kassebaum offered an amendment which would have limited a LEA's financial obligation to the amount of federal money received under Part B of IDEA. Since the federal dollars cover less than 10% of the cost of special education and related services, such an amendment would have an extremely negative effect on children with disabilities. That particular amendment was defeated on a voice vote, but Senator Kassebaum made it clear that we'll be seeing it again, perhaps on the floor of the Senate. As we go to press, there is a slight possibility that S. 1578 will go to the floor of the senate prior to their Easter recess.

On the House side, there is still no formal bill but the third draft of a House proposal has been circulated for preliminary review. Staffers indicate that they hope to have a bill introduced by mid-April. The draft contains much stronger language around the issue of braille in the IEP. It specifies that in the case of a child who is blind or visually impaired, braille must be taught unless every member of the IEP team agrees that it is inappropriate. The House bill also contains an amendment to the law which would reduce the amount of Part B money which can be "set-aside" by the state education agency (SEA) from the current level of 25% to 10%.

Both House and Senate versions dramatically re-structure the discretionary programs and even though they both contain references to training for "low incidence personnel," there are some serious questions as to how our vision teacher training programs would fare (or whether they will survive).

If you would like more detailed information about the status of this legislation, call or e-mail the AER office. Or better yet, subscribe to AER's listserv (AERNET) and receive regular legislative updates instantly.

THE CONTINUING SAGA OF CONTINUING RESOLUTIONS

Remarkably, six months into the 1996 fiscal year, there are still nine agencies in the Federal government which have no final appropriations legislation. Congress continues to pass short-term continuing resolutions to keep from causing another partial shutdown of the government. But in the meantime, agencies such as the Department of Education are struggling to figure out how much money will be available, and when, for the many programs and projects which they fund. As we go to press, an "Omnibus Appropriations" bill has passed both the House and Senate. This bill would fund all of the agencies which do not yet have appropriations bills through the end of the 1996 fiscal year. There is good news for special education since it appears as if the House has backed off of its effort to zero-out several of the discretionary programs (such as Personnel

AER Report is published six times a year as a membership service. Regions, chapters, divisions and individual members are encouraged to submit items of interest for publication to:

Lynn S. Abbott, Editor

AER Report

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AER does not review or evaluate the literature or products listed in its newsletter. A listing, therefore, does not suggest AER endorsement.

(continued on p. 3)

Legislative Round-Up

(continued from p. 2)

Preparation). The bill includes slight increases for the state grant portion of the Rehabilitation Act and "level funds" (i.e. 1995 levels) most other programs, such as Chapter 2 (Independent Living for Elderly Blind).

Assuming that other, major disagreements can be worked out between the two chambers and with the White House (a big assumption at the moment!), perhaps they will finally resolve the 1996 appropriations and begin on the 1997 funding bills!!

The closer we get to election day, the less likely we are to see much substantive progress on any of these issues, but we'll keep you posted.

Welcome New Members!!

Tonya Androsky (MI)
Carrie Bahr (MS)
Karen Baker (IL)
Barbara Bamel (MA)
Lorraine Baroddy (FL)
Peggy Barred-Smith (MO)
Jennefer Batdorf (PA)
Margaret Bateman (IA)
Agyeiwa Bonsu-Wiafe (MI)
Annette Bruorton (NC)
Rosemary Carroll (NJ)
Kristi Chalko (MI)
Eva Chambers (Ontario)
Lori Christiansen (FL)
Jennifer Currie-Roy (Ontario)
Mary Deuel (PA)
Wendy Devitt (FL)
Barbara DiFrancesco (NM)
Jacqueline Dochterman (FL)
Julia Dockery (CA)
Virginia Drake (Ontario)
Marsha Duckert (IL)
Dayna Enderson (AR)
Constance Ensing (MI)
Carolyn Ewoldt (Ontario)
Barbara Fragopoulos (MA)
Lynn Frazier (KY)
Linda Garvin (FL)
Robert Gates (AZ)
Nancy Giannone (MA)
Michele Glen (IL)
Moniqueka Gold (TN)
Char Goode (IL)
Shari Hall (MI)
Harold Hanson (MN)
Candace Hickerson (AR)
Ronee Hudson (FL)
Melanie Hughes (PA)
Christopher Hutchings (Ontario)



Susan Johnson (FL)
Ray Joyce (MA)
Dianne Kalisalo (FL)
Je Kim (MI)
Gordon Kohler (OH)
Timothy Korwin (IL)
Marjory Lambert (CO)
Linda Lemon (Ontario)
Carol Lewis (MD)
Louis Lipschultz (IL)
Lois Mann (OH)
Suzanne Martinez (FL)
Josee Martineau (Ontario)
Ireneo Martinez (NY)
Mark McKeiman (OR)
Nancy Miller (MI)
Maria Morais (CA)
Eileen Morelos-Gutierrez (CA)
Jeanne Murphy (NY)
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Ramon Oddis, Jr. (AR)
Elizabeth Olson (WA)
Bridget Parker (AZ)
Sheila Patterson (TN)
Wayne Peterneil (AR)
Sarah Phaneuf (MI)
Paul Raskin (CA)
Richard Roderick (KY)

Kenneth Rosenthal (NJ)
Stefania Sarti (NY)
Jennifer Savin (Ontario)
Sheryl Schmidt (CA)
David Scott (CA)
Tricia Smith (FL)
Kathy Snyder (AR)
Sarah Starnes (MO)
Victor Steiner (AR)
Marcus Stenzel (CA)
Steven Stiles (AR)
Kenneth Stitely (FL)
Jessica Stringfield (LA)
Amy Taff (FL)
Roxanne Taylor (MI)
Judith Thomas (Ontario)
Russell Thompson (AZ)
Elsa Varady (Ontario)
Laura Varisco (NY)
Cheryl Vaughn (WA)
Susan Wade (Ontario)
Sally Walton (MD)
Gary Want (England)
Betty West (AZ)
Christopher Willis (MS)
Theresa Yob (MI)
Alicia Zermeno (CA)



RE:sources

From National Braille Press:

National Braille Press has just released *The Internet Complete Reference*, a comprehensive guide for beginner or advanced Internet users. The eight

volume hardcover braille edition is available to U.S. citizens and agencies only, and there is a limited supply. Send your \$65.00 payment to: NBP, 88 St. Stephen St., Boston, MA 02115; (800) 548-7323.

From The University of Massachusetts Boston Vision Rehabilitation Projects:

RT-L is a newly created listserv for the discussion of issues pertaining to rehabilitation teaching. To subscribe, send a message to listserv@umb.sky.cc.umb.edu and in the body of the message type **subscribe rt-l firstname lastname**. For additional information, please contact: Bob McCulley (mcculley@umb.sky.cc.umb.edu) or Jean-Marie Shouman (shouman@umb.sky.cc.umb.edu).

From The Robert Wood Johnson Community Health Leadership Program (CHLP):

CHLP honors ten outstanding individuals each year for their work in creating or enhancing health care programs serving communities whose needs have been ignored and unmet. Each leader receives \$100,000 which includes a \$5,000 personal stipend and \$95,000 for program enhancement over a three year period. Interested individuals may write CHLP for a brochure and a Letter of Intent (due in the Program Office no later than September 16). Final nominations are due November 12. Contact: CHLP, 30 Winter St., Suite 1005, Boston, MA 02108.

From Resources for Rehabilitation:

A revised and expanded edition of *Resources for Elders with Disabilities* is now available in 18 point type, with information on rehabilitation, laws that affect elders with disabilities, and self-help groups. For additional details, contact: Resources for Rehabilitation, 33 Bedford St., Suite 19A, Lexington, MA 02173; (617) 862-6455 or fax (617) 861-7517.

From The Library of Congress, National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped:

Blind and physically handicapped individuals who are seeking specialized reading material now have a new

guide, *Another Source for Books: Electronic Text*, published by NLS. The publication includes a list of Internet sites that have large collections of full-text and public domain books. Each citation gives a uniform resource locator so readers can connect to the sites with personal computers using World Wide Web browsing software. This list is also available to Internet users on the NLS homepage at <http://lcweb.loc.gov/nls/nls.html>. To obtain a print or braille version of *Another Source for Books: Electronic Text*, contact: Reference Section, NLS, Library of Congress, Washington, DC 20542; (202) 707-9275, fax (202) 707-0712, e-mail nls@loc.gov.

From DREAMMS for Kids, Inc.:

DREAMMS for Kids, Inc. (Developmental Research for the Effective Advancement of Memory and Motor Skills) is a non-profit parent and professional service agency specializing in assistive technology-related research, development, and information dissemination.

DREAMMS announces the release of their *Tech Paks*, assistive technology materials based on an individual's specific needs and requirements. Specific topic *Tech Paks* include: Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Funding, Software, Internet, Adaptive I/O, Environmental Control, Augmentative Communication, etc. *Tech Paks* are free, with an average shipping and handling fee of \$5.00. To request a Tech Pak and service catalog, contact: DREAMMS for Kids, Inc., 2763 Tasha Dr., Clearwater, FL 34621-1223; (813) 781-7711 (voice/fax) or e-mail DREAMMS@ix.netcom.com or DREAMMS@aol.com.

From Woodbine House:

Children with Visual Impairments: A Parent's Guide (416 pages, \$16.95 paperback, \$4.00 shipping/handling), edited by M. Cay Holbrook, Ph.D., presents an overview of the medical, social and educational issues that are crucial to a child's healthy development. To order, contact: Woodbine House, 6510 Bells Mill Rd., Bethesda, MD 20817; (800) 843-7323 or (301) 897-3570.

From New Mobility - The Disability Lifestyle Magazine:

The first Disability Film Festival will be held as part of the 1996 Third Paralympic Congress from August 12-16. A Call for Entries has been issued (education and training films are welcome), with a deadline for submission of April 30th. To receive an application, contact: Debby Barri (800) 543-4116 ext. 410 or e-mail debby@miramar.com.

Across the Spectrum

An information exchange focusing on literature outside the field which references blindness or low vision

Submitted by: Kathy Megivern

Title of article: "Teaching Visually Impaired Students in a Multimedia-Enriched Environment"

Journal reference: *T.H.E. (Technological Horizons in Education) Journal*, Volume 23, Number 7, February 1996. Address: 150 El Camino Real, Suite 112, Tustin, CA 92680-3670.

Authors: Gary Lee, Caitlin M. Groom, Frank M. Groom

Submitted by: Greg Goodrich

Title of article: "Blindsight - Not an Island unto Itself"

Journal reference: *Current Directions in Psychological Science: A Journal of the American Psychological Society*, Volume 4, Number 5, October 1995, Cambridge University Press

Author: Lawrence Weiskrantz

Submitted by: Kathy Megivern

Journal reference: *Phi Delta Kappan*, December 1995 - "Special Section on Inclusion." Address: Phi Delta Kappa, Inc., 408 N. Union, P.O. Box 789, Bloomington, IN 47402.

AER does not have the staff, resources or legal right to act as a clearinghouse for the literature listed in this column. We encourage individuals to submit references to literature not routinely associated with the field but which may be of interest to AER members. Thank you.

People on the Move



AER member **Patricia Wisner** has joined the staff of the Central Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired in Utica, New York as a rehabilitation teacher.

Congratulations to AER member **Chris Tompkins**, recipient of the Arizona Chapter's 1995 Margaret Bluhm Worker of the Year Award.

Glenn DiChiera, AER member and Past President of the DC/Maryland Chapter, has been elected to the Board of Directors of the Maryland School for the Blind.

Mark Your Calendars



"Adding Technology to the Human Touch: Information & Referral in the 21st Century" is the theme of the joint conference of The Alliance of Information & Referral Systems (AIRS) and The National Aging Information & Referral Support Center. The meeting will be held in Myrtle Beach, SC from May 5-9, 1996. For registration details, contact: University of South Carolina, School of Medicine, Center for Developmental Disabilities, Columbia, SC 29208.

The 1996 annual conference of the Colorado Chapter of AER will be held from April 18-20 at the Lion Square Lodge in Vail. Conference highlights include sessions with Dr. Jim Jan, a pediatric neurologist from Vancouver, British Columbia. To register, contact: Tanni Anthony, Colorado Department of Education, Special Education Services Unit, 201 E. Colfax Ave., Denver, CO 80203; (303) 866-6681.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR AFB AWARD

The American Foundation for the Blind has announced a call for nominations for the inaugural Catherine T. "Kay" Gallagher Award, established in memory of the wife of retired AFB President William F. Gallagher. The accolade recognizes blind or visually impaired individuals who have demonstrated exemplary participation in the workplace and the community and have served as role models for other people who are blind or visually impaired. For a listing of the criteria and procedures for nominations, contact: Terry Allen, (212) 502-7674. Deadline for nominations: May 15, 1996.

AER International Conference Notes
July 20-24, 1996
St. Louis, Missouri



If you have not received a preliminary conference program and registration materials and plan to attend, please contact the AER office immediately. Although you may register anytime to attend the conference, special discounts are available for early registrants -- and the early registrations must be postmarked or fax dated June 20th.

Planning to come to St. Louis a little early? Then don't miss the AFB/Xerox Corporation special exhibition, *Inspiration and Innovation: Helen Keller and the American Foundation for the Blind*, on display from June 15- July 23 at the St. Louis Public Library. For further information, contact: Liz Greco by phone: (212) 502-7614 or e-mail: lgreco@afb.org.

In Memoriam
Milton J. Samuelson
1934-1996

Milton J. Samuelson, executive director of The Chicago Lighthouse for People Who Are Blind or Visually Impaired, died on Thursday, March 7 from liver disease-related health problems.

Locally and nationally recognized for his outstanding achievements in creating opportunities for people with disabilities, Samuelson was a true humanitarian and friend to people from all walks of life.

Samuelson received his master's degree in social work from the University of Missouri in 1965 and immediately went to work for the Labette County Department of Social Welfare in Kansas. In 1969, Samuelson moved to Chicago and established The Chicago Lighthouse's innovative development education center for children who are blind or visually impaired with additional disabilities -- one of the first children's center of its kind in the Midwest. In 1979, Samuelson became executive director of the agency, and under his visionary leadership, The Lighthouse has continued to receive acclaim for its programs and services.

In 1994, AER's Illinois Chapter honored Samuelson with its prestigious Distinguished Service Award. And most recently, Samuelson was recognized by the Chicago Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities with the presentation of an August W. Christmann Award in 1995.

Samuelson lived in Oak Park and is survived by his wife, Ramona, and their five children. In lieu of flowers, the family has requested that contributions be made to *The Milton J. Samuelson Memorial Fund* at The Chicago Lighthouse, 1850 W. Roosevelt Rd., Chicago, IL 60608.

Information received from: The Chicago Lighthouse and the Illinois Chapter of the Association for Education & Rehabilitation of the Blind & Visually Impaired

Request from History and Memorial Committee

Every two years, at AER's international conference, the AER History and Memorial Committee pays special tribute to AER members who have died in the past biennium.

Committee Chairperson Eileen Siffermann is requesting assistance in compiling a list of deceased members. Although we try to include tributes in *AER Report* whenever we learn of the death of an AER member, our information is not always complete. If you know of an AER member who passed away since the previous international conference (held in July 1994 in Dallas, Texas), and that person was not recognized in any issue of *AER Report*, please let Eileen know the name of that member and where the member resided.

You may contact Eileen at the following address or phone number: 8697 N. Arnold Palmer Dr., Tucson, AZ 85742; (520) 770-3721 or e-mail address: esifferman@aol.com.

Helen Keller Deaf-Blind Awareness Campaign

This year's Helen Keller Deaf-Blind Awareness Campaign focuses on employment opportunities and accessibility in the workplace for people who are deaf-blind. The campaign kicks off in June, the month of Helen Keller's birthdate.

All citizens, health organizations, civic groups, libraries, schools and agencies are encouraged to plan state and local activities during the month of June, and especially during the week of June 23-29. A sample proclamation, a radio public service script, list of suggested activities, 1996 poster, ad slicks and a press release are available at no cost from the Helen Keller National Center. Call or fax your request to: Public Relations Department, HKNC, 111 Middle Neck Rd., Sands Point, NY 11050; (516) 944-8900 ext. 325 (voice); (516) 944-8637 (TTY); (516) 944-7302 (fax).

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Week 4: Improving Aided Vision

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Week 5B: Accessing Systems of Services and Funding

Week 6: Special Needs Populations with Low Vision

For more information call (215) 276-6295 or 6294 or write to Laura A. Edwards or Audrey J. Smith, Department of Graduate Studies in Vision Impairment, Pennsylvania College of Optometry, 1200 West Godfrey Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19141.

**Division 9 Issues Forum
July 20, 1996
St. Louis, Missouri**

Can a blind person teach O&M? What about licensure for O&M Specialists? How do you feel about agency-based training, paraprofessionals, and all the other issues facing the profession today? If you have an opinion (and who doesn't?), you may want to share it with your colleagues at the upcoming Division 9 Issues Forum.

Prior to the AER international conference, Division 9 (O&M) will conduct a special session focusing on events of the past two years and on issues affecting the future of the profession of Orientation and Mobility.

A continental breakfast has been planned at which participants will be able to renew old acquaintances and meet new friends.

The session is scheduled from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm at the Adam's Mark Hotel (site of the AER international conference) with a registration fee of \$15. The morning session will begin with a continental breakfast followed by reports from the chairs of the three division committees related to certification. Lunch will be on your own. The afternoon session will begin at 1:30 pm, and the topic will be an informal discussion of alternative methods/techniques used by O&M instructors with disabilities.

The day will be, at the *very* least, quite interesting and thought-provoking. Won't you join us?



REGISTER NOW! Deadline - July 13, 1996

Registration fee - \$15.00 (U.S.) Make check or money order payable to AER - Division 9.

Complete this form and submit with registration fee to: AER, 206 N. Washington St., Ste. 320, Alexandria, VA 22314.

Yes! Count me in for the Division 9 Issues Forum.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Are you a member of Division 9? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Let's Talk.



What do YOU want from AER??

As many of you know, AER has been in the process of self-examination, re-engineering and gathering feedback from our members for the last two years. You will soon be receiving proposed bylaws amendments intended to deal with some of the structural issues which have arisen during this process. Another important piece of the "puzzle" has been the gathering of member input about our current activities. Beginning last fall, our dues invoices contained a brief survey on the reverse side. While not everyone who has paid dues filled out this survey, several hundred of you did take the time to let us know how you feel about our current

range of activities. We asked people to rank, in order of importance, the activities which AER should be providing. We listed all current activities and benefits in an effort to help the Board of Directors set priorities for the future. The list, in alphabetical order, was as follows: *AER Report*; AER-Line Teleseminars; Car rental discounts, insurance programs, *JVIB*, *JRA* and *JVR* discounts; Certification programs; International conferences; *Job Exchange*; Leadership training for chapter/division officers; Legislative representation/Lobbying; Providing information about government activities; Public education about blindness professionals; *RE:view*; and that all important "other" category! The results thus far have been interesting, confirming in some ways and surprising in others. The priority which comes through most often as the number one activity and most frequently among the top three choices is legislative representation and lobbying. If you add to that those who selected the related topic of "providing information about government activities" among their top three selections, it becomes almost twice as important as any other of the listed priorities. Coming in a strong

second in peoples' lists of their top three is *AER Report*. Certification programs and *RE:view* are virtually tied as the number three priority. International conferences comes up fourth and the choices of "public education about blindness professionals" and AER-Line teleseminars run a close race for number five.

While there have not been enough responses thus far to be a "statistically significant" sampling, these results are helpful as the Board begins the process of setting priorities. If for any reason you did not fill out the survey (for instance, life paid members don't receive invoices and therefore did not receive the questionnaire) and would like to share your opinions, or if you have any thoughts or reactions based on the results as reported thus far, please communicate with us in any of the usual ways (telephone, fax, e-mail or regular mail). We will continue to offer opportunities for formal feedback and we always welcome your ideas and thoughts. Thanks to those of you who took the time to fill out the survey. If you haven't yet received a dues invoice, please help us in this effort to gather data when you do. Thank you.

Did You Know?

Two-thirds of all associations engage in some form of research or statistical gathering. Businesses and government depend heavily on associations for their statistical information, which is often not available elsewhere. [Source: American Society of Association Executives]

AER appreciates your participation in surveys.

Focus on Employment

by Kathy Megivern

With unemployment statistics among blind adults estimated to be near 70%, a seminar titled "Focus on Employment" is obviously of interest and importance. Such a seminar was recently hosted in Washington, D.C. by the Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Blindness and Low Vision of Mississippi State University (MSU RRTC). The seminar was held in conjunction with the American Foundation for the Blind's Josephine L. Taylor Leadership Institute. More than 100 registrants attended general sessions where, among other

things, they heard from Susan Daniels, Associate Commissioner of the Social Security Administration, and the Rehabilitation Services Administration's Commissioner Fred Schroeder.

Smaller groups met to discuss critical issues in depth. The work groups considered problem areas, recommended solutions and suggested agencies or organizations in the field of services to persons who are blind which might take leadership in attempting to impact on the employment problems identified. The groups focused on: (1) partnerships between rehabilitation and employers; (2) public advocacy; and (3) personnel preparation of rehabilitation

counselors serving persons who are blind. The groups were led by Dr. Karen Wolffe, Dr. Susan Spungin and Mr. John Maxson, respectively.

As a follow-up to the meeting, key personnel will meet at the Mississippi State RRTC in late April to utilize the results of the work groups for setting timetables and implementing a plan to involve a variety of groups to impact on the identified problems in a one to five year period. For further information, call John Maxson at the Mississippi State RRTC, (601) 325-2001 or Gil Johnson at the American Foundation for the Blind in San Francisco, (415) 392-4845.

Still More "Focus on Employment" - a Topic Worth Repeating!

Participants at the MSU RRTC/AFB Focus on Employment Seminar (see above) discussed a project which had been conducted by the Oregon Commission for the Blind and was reported upon in the *Journal of Visual Impairment and Blindness* by Charles E. Young. The Commission conducted two separate focus groups, approximately one year apart, which in 1994 brought together blind consumers who have been successfully employed and, in 1995, vocational rehabilitation counselors who consistently have high numbers of blind clients achieving competitive employment. The purpose of these focus groups was to identify the factors which lead to job placement and long term employment of blind persons. The consumer focus group led to a fascinating report which identified the attitudes and alternative techniques which were prevalent among these successful adults. In addition, they had some conclusions and recommendations for rehabilitation agencies which are of importance. A similar report from the focus group on rehabilitation counselors identified attitudinal and strategic commonalities which seem to contribute to success for both the counselor and the customer. The report on the consumer focus group can be found in the January-February 1995 issue of the *Journal of Visual Impairment and Blindness/JVIB News Service*, starting on page 14. The results of the counselor focus group are in the March/April, 1996 issue of the *JVIB News Service*.

The Distance Learning Funding Sourcebook

Distance learning refers to the use of telecommunications and educational technology to create active teaching and learning environments at geographically dispersed sites. The third edition of the *Distance Learning Funding Sourcebook* offers the latest and most comprehensive research on funding agencies that support educational telecommunications and the new media. The publication also identifies hundreds of print and electronic resources to guide research and to enhance the instructional experience in a variety of settings.

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Membership Drive Update

Special thanks to the following AER members who have sponsored one or more new (or returning) members. For each new member sponsored, the members listed below will receive a \$5.00 credit toward their registration fee to the AER international conference. The contest ends June 1st, so hurry and sponsor a new member today! (For a complete listing of the rules of the contest, call or write the AER office or refer to the June or December 1995 editions of *AER Report*.)

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Rhonda Beadles (3)
Blue Bickford (5)
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Gala Brooks (2)
Bob Bryant (1)
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Nora Griffin-Shirley (2)
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AER REPORT

Volume 13, No. 6

December 1996

Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired

AER Central Office Relocates!

After fifteen years in the same suite of offices in the Old Town section of Alexandria, the AER central office has moved! We're now four miles from Old Town in the less expensive West End section of Alexandria.

Our new address, phone and fax numbers are listed below. Although our e-mail address won't change, we'll give that to you again while we're at it.

AER
P.O. Box 22397
Alexandria, VA 22304
(703) 823-9690 phone
(703) 823-9695 fax
e-mail: aernet@laser.net

Coming in June 1997!

Back by popular demand, AER will once again offer a Trainer/Supervisor seminar for certified Orientation & Mobility Specialists who wish to train and supervise Orientation & Mobility Assistants. The location will be St. Louis, Missouri, and the dates will be June 5th and 6th.

Watch the February 1997 issue of *AER Report* for further details!

Evaluation by the Media is not Fun: Part II

Editorial note: In the October 1996 issue of AER Report, Dr. Phil Hatlen shared his thoughts on the present and future status of schools for the blind and the vulnerability of these schools to allegations and criticisms. What follows is a "Comment" on Dr. Hatlen's piece, submitted by AER member Jerry Miller.

Phil Hatlen is to be congratulated for his advocacy for specialized schools for the blind. While his comments focus on educational services, they are also applicable to rehabilitation services. He expresses a realistic concern about the impact of recent negative coverage on schools for the blind and points to the dilemma of how critics interpret our response. Phil suggests that "some people might think" that he and other professionals are concerned about their jobs. Anyone who has worked with Phil, however, would acknowledge his integrity and commitment. As for me, I am not employed by the "blindness system" and therefore my comments should not be perceived as self-interest.

This criticism of the "blindness system" is as unjustified as some of the "halo effect" which has traditionally surrounded the field. For too long, blindness professionals have "benefitted" from a popular attitude that working with the blind is wonderful and noble. Public admiration aside, I believe that most professionals would prefer programs (and themselves) to be evaluated by more objective criteria. We can successfully respond to much of the negativism if we focus on quality standards, program evaluation, and measurement outcome.

The question of how much money it costs a taxpayer to educate a child may be a simplistic one, but it is also a legitimate one. We need to respond clearly without seeming defensive, and our responses must include more meaningful information. A more discerning question is, "What is the worth of the program to the individual and society?" Whether it be education or rehabilitation services, we need to respond in cost-benefit terms.

(continued on p. 2)

Mission: To develop and promote professional excellence through support of those who provide services to people with visual impairments.

Media not Fun... Part II

(continued from p. 1)

And we can. We should acknowledge the costs, but emphasize the cost-benefits of our programs. We know the economic benefits of employment and the elimination of public assistance. We know how much is saved by enabling independence and keeping people out of nursing homes.

Phil is correct in stating that negative coverage has limited our cost-benefit arguments. Professionals and consumers, therefore, need to be more proactive in demonstrating the value of our programs. Otherwise we will remain on the defensive to arguments which are specious and simplistic.

Yes, it is difficult to counter arguments that are presented in politically correct terms such as "integration vs. segregation" (generic vs. specialized). But does anyone seriously consider going to a general practitioner when they need a specialist? Are students turning down acceptance at ivy league schools so they can attend the local community college? Are parents encouraging youngsters to attend the neighborhood high school instead of the high school for the gifted and talented?

The general public understands the factors involved in making these decisions. We ask the cost, but we also consider the cost-benefit. The field deserves well-designed program evaluation which will yield objective measures of outcome. This approach will enable us to identify (and accentuate) the value of our services and eliminate the negative areas. Then let us be more affirmative and, as Phil states, "present the positive." As far as the role of journalists and public officials, let us encourage them to raise questions, but ones which will help them and the consumer make meaningful decisions.

Jerry Miller is Executive Director of Employment Programs for Recovered Alcoholics (EPRA) in New York, New York.

AER Report is published six times a year as a membership service. Chapters, divisions and individual members are encouraged to submit items of interest for publication to:

Lynn S. Abbott, Editor

AER Report

P.O. Box 22397

Alexandria, VA 22304

Phone: (703) 823-9690

Fax: (703) 823-9695

e-mail: aernet@laser.net

AER does not review or evaluate the literature or products listed in its newsletter. A listing, therefore, does not suggest AER endorsement. The views expressed herein represent those of the author(s) and not necessarily those of AER, its Board of Directors, staff or the editor. AER Report provides for the publication of materials that may represent divergent ideas, judgments, and opinions.

To the Editor

Unlike my colleague [whose comments appeared in the August 1996 issue of *AER Report*], I was disappointed by my first experience at an AER international convention. I found, like many others involved in the rehabilitation and education of blind and visually impaired people, that there appear to be serious problems in our profession. I am not a person who has difficulty making friends, networking or connecting with people, yet I ate three meals a day alone for the entire time I was in St. Louis. My reaction was to conclude that sighted rehabilitation folks really don't want a blind guy in their party in a public place.

Due to my plane schedule, I missed the only event for newcomers. I met a few other people who were likewise ignored. I had the impression that if I could only *pass* without a cane or a dog as *nearly* sighted, maybe I would have had a better reception. Or was it my San Francisco badge? Is my AIDS work and pride about where I live, what I do and who I am still a problem for people meeting in the Midwest? I would think not, judging from the rest of my experiences in St. Louis. It was curious that sighted conventioners, no doubt reading my San Francisco badge, respectfully asked me questions about AIDS and HIV-related sight loss when we were alone in elevators.

The issues I raise are widely felt among the blind and low vision people I know and they are serious in their implications. I'd like to be party to an AER solution rather than simply to complain. To be helpers with blind and visually impaired people, we all need to find the balance between direct intervention and teaching people how to orchestrate their own rehabilitation and adjustment to visual impairment. We need to meet with our clients where they are with respect and compassion. We must practice what we preach.

Peter-Marc Damien, Ph.D., Rehabilitation Counselor/Teacher for the AIDS Vision Impairment Services Program, Rose Resnick Lighthouse for the Blind

Welcome New Members!

Christi Ackerson (FL)	Colleen Heiden (WA)	Cheryl McMahon (AZ)	Sharon Speaks-Seeling (MN)
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Ellen Greenfield (NJ)	Nancy Mann (KS)	Charles Snow (FL)	
Deborah Harlin (NY)	Paula Mauro (OH)		
Doris Harper (NY)			

Mark Your Calendars

- ⇒ The next American Foundation for the Blind Josephine L. Taylor Leadership Institute (JLTLI) will be held in Washington, D.C. from March 8-10, 1997. The theme is "Documenting the Value of Specialized Services: Arming Ourselves, Influencing Decisionmakers." For additional details, contact Alberta Orr (212) 502-7634 or Corinne Kirchner (212) 502-7640.
- ⇒ The 11th International Symposium on Adapted Physical Activity and the 8th National Forum of the Active Living Alliance for Canadians with a disability will simultaneously take place from May 13-17, 1997 at the Chateau Frontenac in Quebec City. Sharing a common theme, "Active Living... Differently," both events will present fundamental and applied research results, practical and clinical experiments. Further information may be obtained by contacting: Mr. Leandre Cloutier by phone (418) 529-9141 ext. 6271, or fax (418) 529-7318, or e-mail: <asimard.cfc@craph.org>.
- ⇒ On February 27-28, 1997, the Illinois Vision Conference will be held at the Holiday Inn in Naperville. To receive registration information on "Sharing a Vision," please call Sandi Dorst (708) 957-7025.
- ⇒ The Mississippi State University Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Blindness and Low Vision (MSU RRTC) will be conducting a national conference, "Job Placement for the 21st Century," in Tampa, Florida from April 2-4, 1997. To receive an informational brochure with registration information, contact: Kelly Schaefer, MSU RRTC, P.O. Drawer 6189, Mississippi State, MS 39762; (601) 325-2001 phone, (601) 325-8989 fax, (601) 325-8693 TDD.

Across the Spectrum

An information exchange focusing on literature outside the field which references blindness or low vision

Submitted by: Greg Goodrich

Journal reference: *The Lancet*, March 23, 1996, Vol. 347, 794-7.

Title of article: "Visual Hallucinations in Psychologically Normal People: Charles Bonnet's Syndrome"

Authors: Teunisse, Robert J. et al.

Correspondence to: Dr. R.J. Teunisse, Department of Psychiatry, University Hospital Nijmegen, P.O. Box 9101, 6500 HB Nijmegen, Netherlands.

AER does not have the staff, resources or legal right to act as a clearinghouse for the literature listed in this column. We encourage individuals to submit references to literature not routinely associated with the field but which may be of interest to AER members. Thank you.

PERSONNEL PREPARATION GUIDELINES NOW AVAILABLE

AER's Division 17 (Personnel Preparation) has finalized its work on the development of university guidelines for programs preparing teachers of the visually impaired.

The AER Board of Directors, at its October 1996 meeting, formally approved the document. Copies of the guidelines are now available by contacting the AER office.

In Memoriam Colleen Hennessey

Colleen Hennessey, an AER member and recent graduate of the University of Arizona with a Master's degree in Special Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired, passed away in September after a brief respiratory illness. Ms. Hennessey had just begun her second year of teaching at the Arizona State Schools for the Deaf and the Blind, specializing in multiply disabled severely sensory impaired students. Her ability to adapt traditional teaching strategies to meaningful experiences created unique opportunities for her students. She will be missed by her colleagues, students, friends, family and newborn daughter, Sonora Marie Burrows.

Submitted by: Lynne Albright (and written by several of Ms. Hennessey's colleagues.)

RE:sources

From: American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine

The American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine (ACRM) announces its newly created world-wide home page. The address of the web site is: <<http://www.amctec.com/acrm>>. You may also communicate with ACRM via e-mail: <acrm@amctec.com>.



From: Council for Exceptional Children

The Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) announces its new web site at: <<http://www.cec.sped.org>>. The home page will disseminate information on special education issues and legislation, scholarships and awards for students with special needs, and CEC services.

From: American Foundation for the Blind

The National Aging and Vision Network of the American Foundation for the Blind (AFB) has a new listserv to promote information sharing about serving older adults with vision loss. To subscribe to the listserv, send an e-mail message to: <majordomo@igc.apc.org>. Leave the subject line blank. The body of your message should be "subscribe aging-vision." If you have any questions, contact: Lorraine Lidoff, 15 Mechanic St. #3, Provincetown, MA 02657; (508) 487-5815 phone, or e-mail: <lidoff@afb.org>.

From: American Printing House for the Blind

Braillewriting Dot by Dot is an innovative program from the American Printing House for the Blind (APH) designed to provide instruction in writing braille with either a brailewriter or a slate and stylus. This kit is appropriate for adventitiously blind children or adults, congenitally blind elementary students, or congenitally blind adults wanting to learn a new method of braillewriting. For additional details, contact: APH, P.O. Box 6085, Louisville, KY 40206; customer service (800) 223-1839; marketing/sales (800) 572-0844; e-mail: <sales@aph.org>.

From: Recording for the Blind & Dyslexic

The application deadline for the 1997 Mary P. Oenslager Achievement Awards for college seniors who are legally blind is February 1st. To obtain an application form and specifics concerning the awards program, contact: Public Affairs Office, Recording for the Blind & Dyslexic, 20 Roszel Rd., Princeton, NJ 08540.

From the President...

It is an honor to write my first column for *AER Report*. I view this as an opportunity to openly communicate with you, the AER membership, about Board activities and issues. It also provides me with an opportunity to obtain feedback from you about future directions for our organization. When I assumed the presidency in late July, I mentioned that I wanted to move our organization forward, that I wanted our organization to be more visible, and that I wanted us to have a focus for the future.

In October, the AER Board of Directors met, and you should know that you have elected a most distinguished and committed group of representatives. They, too, want a clear focus for AER and they are committed to make that happen. We spent the first day of the meeting setting goals and discussing future directions.

The following are the goals for the next biennium:

- Create policy to implement the new AER structure per the new bylaws amendments.
- Design and initiate a long range financial plan that includes income generation.
- Investigate the potential of developing an outside certification body.
- Increase continuing education and publication opportunities through topical conferences, AER-line teleseminars, teleconferences, video training, Lowenfeld publications, and expanding *AER Report*.
- Increase AER's visibility in legislative activities.
- Explore the development and expansion of Canadian programs and services.
- Increase membership from individuals in the rehabilitation fields.

The Board continues to grapple with many issues regarding its role and function. While our mission and purpose is "professionals supporting professionals," we are asked to be part of numerous coalitions of and for the blind. For example, we are members and have representatives on the World Blind Union, the Braille Authority of North America, and the International Council on Education of the Visually Impaired. A minor part of our budget allocates monies for dues and travel. Should AER continue to be a part of these organizations?

Another issue concerns our interactions with blind and visually impaired professionals at AER conferences. I have received correspondence from AER members who are visually impaired and they have shared their concerns with me and other Board members regarding feelings of

isolation and difficulty accessing colleagues at the international AER conference and social activities. As the leader of this organization and a person with a visual impairment, I am gravely concerned. What can we do to make conferences more accessible to all conference attendees? How can we do a better job of making new members and first time conference participants feel more welcome? AER Past President Barbara McCarthy is the 1998 international conference committee chair, and she is aware of the problem and is working with her committee to resolve these issues.

Finally, the Board is examining its fiscal needs for the future. When you receive your AER membership renewal form, you will find the addition of a section in which we request a donation to the Lowenfeld Publication Fund, MacFarland Fund, or AER general fund. Your donation will directly affect programs and services to the membership. When and if more income is generated, how would you like the funds to be used?

Naturally there are many more issues than those discussed above, and I will try to bring them up in future editions of *AER Report*. Please get involved and let us hear from you. We need your involvement and commitment to our organization and the field.

Here are some of the activities you can look forward to in 1997 and 1998:

- ♦ AER-Lift leadership training seminar
- ♦ AER workshop (cosponsored with CTEVH) on dispute resolution in the IEP and IWRP process
- ♦ AER teleseminars ("The Best of St. Louis")
- ♦ New Lowenfeld publication: Proceedings from the 1st and 2nd "Getting in Touch with Braille" literacy conferences
- ♦ Video series on early intervention and vision loss
- ♦ AER fax line for updates on legislative activities

Finally, I want to thank the AER staff for their hard work and commitment to the organization. As many of you know, the central office will be moving in late November, and the staff needs your support. They will be extremely busy packing and unpacking, so please be patient and allow them some time to get settled.

I look forward to hearing from you. Please feel free to give me a call or send me an e-mail message any time: (510) 657-2319 or SZSacks@aol.com.

Sharon Zell Sacks, AER President

YESTERDAY'S NEWS

In 1971 the price of an annual subscription to *The New Outlook for the Blind* was \$6.00 and the price of *Blindness Annual 1971* (a publication of the American Association of Workers for the Blind) was \$3.00. Both were quite a bargain when you consider the cost of a 52-week subscription to *U.S. News and World Report* in 1971 was \$28.00!

Trivia buffs may also recall that in 1971 the Department of Health, Education and Welfare (now the Department of Health and Human Services) announced a \$2.5 million grant and the donation of 25 acres of government land on Long Island to establish the nation's first training and research center on deaf-blindness (to be later named the National Center for Deaf-Blind Youths and Adults).

On a somber note, it was on April 24, 1971 that Father Thomas Carroll passed away.

Information submitted by: Greg Goodrich

Validation of National Literary Braille Competency Test Underway

The Human Resources Research Organization (HumRRO) of Alexandria, Virginia, under contract from the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS), is in the process of conducting a two-year validation study of the NLS National Literary Braille Competency Test (NLBCT). The NLBCT was first administered in 1994, and the validation study of the test will determine how well it measures the literary braille knowledge and skills of teachers of the visually impaired.

The validation process is divided into two parts. In the first part, HumRRO will analyze the literary braille tasks that are performed by teachers in rehabilitation settings, residential schools, and mainstreamed classrooms and determine the degree to which the NLBCT assesses competency to perform these tasks. The second part of the validation process focuses on the reliability of the NLBCT by administering the test to at least 200 examinees. The results are then analyzed to determine standard errors of measurement and the difficulty and pass-fail decision equivalence for each of the four versions of the NLBCT.

Dr. Evelyn Rex, a braille expert with more than thirty years of experience in the education of the visually impaired, is the braille consultant for the NLBCT validation project. Dr. Deirdre Knapp, whose experience includes designing and developing certification testing programs and job analyses for national organizations, is the director for the validation process.

HumRRO is currently searching for teachers of the visually impaired to act as literary braille subject matter experts and participate in the validation study. To be eligible, you must be a U.S. citizen or resident and knowledgeable in literary braille. In addition, you must have three or more years experience as a teacher of the visually impaired in one of the following settings: residential, itinerant, or rehabilitation. Participants will

attend one or more workshops, each lasting one day. The first workshops will be in December and January. Air travel and accommodations will be provided by HumRRO. An honoraria of \$100 will be given to each participant for each workshop attended (most participants will attend only one workshop).

For more information on participating in the validation study, please contact: Maggie Collins, HumRRO, 66 Canal Center Plaza, Suite 400, Alexandria, VA 22192; (703) 706-5657; e-mail: <mcollins@mail.humrro.org>.

To obtain additional details on the NLBCT and the validation study, contact: Frank Kurt Cylke, Director, National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, Library of Congress, Washington, DC 20542; (202) 707-5104 phone; (202) 707-0712 fax; e-mail: <nls@loc.gov>.

Happy Holidays from the AER Staff!



"The Best of St. Louis"

Feedback from the 1996 AER international conference in St. Louis has been so positive that the Continuing Education Committee decided to keep that "Spirit of St. Louis" alive throughout 1997 with a new series of **AER-Line Teleseminars** featuring some of the most outstanding workshops and presentations from the 1996 conference.

Here's your chance to hear and interact with our "best and brightest." Space will be limited, so sign up today! **All teleseminars begin at 1:00 pm (EST) and are one hour in length with lots of time for questions from participants.** No special equipment is needed. We'll provide you with the "800" access number so you can call in from any telephone.

"The End of Handicaps"

Ray Kurzweil - January 22, 1997

Our conference keynote speaker will begin our "Best of St. Louis" series with his provocative presentation about the impact of technology on our world and his intriguing view of the future:

*"Through Moore's Law, computers are doubling in speed and memory capacity every 18 months. By early in the next century, your average personal computer will match the speed and memory capacity of the human brain. And by the end of the first decade of the next century, I believe that we will come to herald the effective **end of handicaps.**"*

"Attitudes About Blindness: An Interactive Approach"

Billy Brookshire and Lynda Jones - February 18, 1997

Our beliefs about blindness originate from our communities and experiences. To be effective practitioners, we must continually examine our personal beliefs and encourage others to do the same. This workshop presents a model for classrooms and in-service training which helps people explore, express and compare their attitudes about blindness and blind persons.

"Intervention Strategies for Servicing Children with Cortical Visual Impairment"

Ann Rutherford and Linda Nobles - March 21, 1997

This presentation explores the differences in visual behavior that impact learning between children with cortical visual impairment and children with ocular disorders. The differences mandate divergent programming considerations such as visual stimulation versus simplification, multi-sensory development versus avoidance of sensory overload, and inclusion versus individual instruction.

Register today ! To sign up, use the form on the last page of this newsletter.



"The Best of St. Louis"



YES!! Please sign me up for the following AER-Line teleseminar(s) @ \$39 (U.S.) per seminar:

_____ "The End of Handicaps" - Ray Kurzweil -- Jan. 22, 1997

_____ "Attitudes About Blindness: An Interactive Approach" - Billy Brookshire & Lynda Jones -- Feb. 18, 1997

_____ "Intervention Strategies for Servicing Children with Cortical Visual Impairment" - Ann Rutherford & Linda Nobles -- March 21, 1997

Name

Address

City

State/Province

Zip/Postal Code

Daytime Telephone

If there are handouts, which format do you prefer? _____ Print _____ Braille _____ Tape

The registration fee is \$39.00 (U.S.) per person for each seminar:

_____ Enclosed is a check or U.S. money order made payable to AER.

_____ Please charge my _____ Visa or _____ MasterCard

Acct # _____

Expiration date: _____ Signature: _____

Please mail this form with payment to: AER, P.O. Box 22397, Alexandria, VA 22304.
Credit card orders may be FAXED to: (703) 823-9695.



AER Report
P.O. Box 22397
Alexandria, VA 22304



AMERICAN FOUNDATION F/T B
11 PENN PLAZA #300
NEW YORK, NY 10001

AER REPORT

Volume 14, No. 1

February 1997

Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired

Fiscal Responsibility Leads to Growth & Shortfalls by David Ekin, AER Treasurer

Over the past several years, the AER Board of Directors has continued to maintain fiscal responsibility for the organization through balanced budgets and protection of its endowment fund principal. Recently the Board has begun the process of developing a long range financial plan for AER. This plan, which will be further developed with chapter presidents and division chairs at AER-Lift [see AER-Lift announcement on p. 4], will become increasingly important as AER moves forward toward its goal of providing more benefits to its members.

Specifically, the Board has developed policies to govern the endowment fund. These policies have allowed the fund to develop a stronger mix of income-generation based investments and long term growth-oriented investments. Additionally, the Board has provided more oversight and better communication with the investment firm which oversees our endowment investments.

Unfortunately, since membership dues only account for 50% of AER's budget and the \$65.00 (the regular dues rate since 1991) has been reduced to approximately \$54.00 when taking inflation into account, there has been a need to utilize all of the endowment
(continued on p. 6)

Back in Town: 105th Congress Convenes by Kathleen Megivern

The 105th Congress has arrived in Washington with a very full agenda, especially with respect to disability issues. Of course, there is the "unfinished business" from last year -- reauthorization of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). But this is also the year for reauthorization of the Rehabilitation Act. While the November elections did not produce major changes in the over-all make-up of Congress, we are seeing considerable shuffling on the Congressional committees which traditionally deal with our issues.

The House Committee has once again changed its name. You may remember that when the "republican revolution" swept into town two years ago, the long-standing House Committee on Education and Labor was changed to the House Committee on Economic and Educational Opportunities. Now they have changed again to become the House Committee on Education and the Workforce. The full Committee continues to be chaired by Rep. Bill Goodling (R, PA). The Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Youth and Families, which will handle IDEA, is now chaired by Rep. Frank Riggs (R, CA). The Subcommittee on Postsecondary Education, Training and Lifelong Learning will once again be chaired by Rep. Howard McKeon (R, CA).

On the Senate side, the new Chairman of the Committee on Labor and Human Resources is Senator James Jeffords (R, VT). Mr. Jeffords is a longtime supporter of issues related to disability as well as education in general. He has restructured the subcommittees to retain subcommittees on aging as well as on children and families. In addition, two new subcommittees have been formed, one responsible for public health and safety, the other responsible for labor and training issues. This means that he has disbanded the Subcommittee on Disability Policy, the

(continued on p. 14)

Mission: To develop and promote professional excellence through support of those who provide services to people with visual impairments.

Welcome New Members!

Christine Amundson (MT)
 Cheryl Aumuelier (CA)
 Dionne Ballard (AL)
 Ed Bettinardi (CO)
 Lohren Caceres (TX)
 Lori Chapman (TX)
 Nancy Chirempes (IL)
 Don Cochran (AL)
 Janet Connor (FL)
 Catherine Culbertson (FL)
 Trecia Daniels (TX)
 Christa Elward (Nova Scotia)
 Diana Estrella (NY)
 Sarah Feinbaum (CA)
 Kathryn Fortier (MI)
 Kay Glodowski (MI)
 Louis Golden (OR)
 Celia Graham (FL)
 Rhonda Gray (Ontario)
 Mary Green (FL)
 Alisand Greene (TX)
 Amy Halloran (NH)
 Kathy Handra (FL)
 Carrie Hargrave (TX)
 Brian Harlan (FL)
 Shawn Hatfield Slivka (OH)
 Carol Hile (NY)
 Kathryn Hollis (MI)
 Audrey Jakab (NY)
 Janice Jensen (OH)
 Gary Johnston (FL)
 Becky Karper (TX)
 Bernadetta King (MI)
 Jacques-Gilles Laberge (Quebec)
 Tricia Lee (TX)
 Constance Lesiewicz (MI)
 Gene Luini (AZ)
 Pamela Maraone (MI)
 Irene Martinez (TX)
 Jill Mathis (WY)
 Louis McCloskey (AL)
 Diana McMenemy (MI)
 Shelley Moats (CO)
 Jessica Moreau (GA)
 Eileen Pace (FL)
 Carla Paradisi (Ontario)
 Couyrtney Parker (MI)
 Jadwiga Plesniar (MI)
 Sally Prouty (MN)
 Allen Radford (NC)
 Lou Radford (NC)
 John Rempel (Ontario)

Sheree Ricketts (OH)
 Joyce Rumsey (UT)
 Edna Rung (NY)
 Mary Slay (FL)
 George Smolinski (Ontario)
 Peggy Swanson (MN)
 Danelle Volk (MI)
 Regina Wesley (MI)
 John Wheeler (FL)
 Fred Wurtzel (MI)
 Feng Yang (MI)



RE:sources

From: The Hadley School for the Blind

The Hadley School for the Blind has expanded its program to include course offerings for family members of adults who are blind. Tuition-free distance education courses such as "The Human Eye" and "Self-Esteem and Adjusting with Blindness" are sent to eligible students in their homes. For details, call the Parent/Family Department: (800) 323-4238.

From: American Foundation for the Blind

AFB Press has announced the publication of two new textbooks, *Foundations of Low Vision: Clinical and Functional Perspectives* and *Foundations of Rehabilitation Teaching With Persons Who Are Blind or Visually Impaired*.

Foundations of Low Vision, edited by Anne L. Corn, Ed.D. and Alan J. Koenig, Ed.D., examines how low vision affects the functional abilities of the individual and

AER Report is published six times a year as a membership service. Chapters, divisions and individual members are encouraged to submit items of interest for publication to:

Lynn S. Abbott, Editor

AER Report

P.O. Box 22397

Alexandria, VA 22304

Phone: (703) 823-9690

Fax: (703) 823-9695

e-mail: aernet@laser.net

AER does not review or evaluate the literature or products listed in its newsletter. A listing, therefore, does not suggest AER endorsement. The views expressed herein represent those of the author(s) and not necessarily those of AER, its Board of Directors, staff or the editor. AER Report provides for the publication of materials that may represent divergent ideas, judgments, and opinions.

details how services can effectively meet the person's resulting needs. Authors Paul E. Ponchillia, Ph.D. and Susan V. Ponchillia, Ed.D., in *Foundation of Rehabilitation Teaching*, detail the history and development of rehabilitation teaching and provide practical information and instructional strategies for practitioners in the field.

To order, contact: AFB Press, 11 Penn Plaza, Ste. 300, New York, NY 10001; (800) 232-3044 or fax (212) 502-7774.

From: The Foundation for Blind Children

The Foundation for Blind Children and the Mohave Treatment Programs Department at the Arizona State Prison Complex have opened a new Perkins Braille repair service which is available to any person across the country. For additional details contact: The Foundation for Blind Children, 1235 E. Harmont Dr., Phoenix, AZ 85020; (602) 331-1470.

Across the Spectrum

An information exchange focusing on literature outside the field which references blindness or low vision

Submitted by: Greg Goodrich

Journal reference: *Scientific American*, January 1997, Volume 276, Number 1, pp. 76-81

Title of article: "How the Blind Draw" (Author discovers that when blind people draw three-dimensional objects they use many of the same conventions that sighted artists do.)

Author: John M. Kennedy

Reprints: Reprint Department, Scientific American, Inc., 415 Madison Ave., New York, NY 10017-1111; fax (212) 355-0408; e-mail: info@sciam.com.

Submitted by: Greg Goodrich

Journal reference: *American Rehabilitation*, Autumn/Winter 1995, Volume 21, Number 3, pp.22-7.

Title of article: "Rehabilitating Persons Who are Blind: 75 Years of Progress"

Authors: J. Elton Moore, Ed.D., CRC and Cara Fireison, M.S.

Contact: Editor, *American Rehabilitation*, Rehabilitation Services Administration, Room 3212 MES, 330 C St., S.W., Washington, DC 20202-2531; (202) 205-8296 or fax (202) 205-9874.

AER does not have the staff, resources or legal right to act as a clearinghouse for the literature listed in this column. We encourage individuals to submit references to literature not routinely associated with the field but which may be of interest to AER members. Thank you.

YESTERDAY'S NEWS

Consider *this* the next time you hear the phrase "the good old days:"

In 1976, Telesensory sold the Speech+ talking calculator for \$395.00. Perhaps the good old days *were* good, but not cheap. On the other hand, the American Foundation for the Blind was selling J. Alfred Leonard's *Blind Mobility: The State of the Art in Navigation and Orientation* for the remarkable price of 20 cents. It was 10 pages in length. Remember when "state of the art" required only 10 pages to document?

Nineteen seventy-six was also the year the U.S. Civil Service Commission began a six-month demonstration project to "determine the feasibility of synthesized speech for computer data retrieval."

One hundred sixty-eight years ago, Louis Braille introduced his embossed code, inspired by a system of knots tied in string that the French army used as a communication tool for sending messages to be read in the dark. And 100 years ago Thomas Edison invented the phonograph, born of his desire to aid the deaf and *not* a desire to invent the predecessor of talking books for the blind.

Submitted by: Greg Goodrich

Building a Career

Belonging to a professional association is often the most important career-enhancing move you can make. An association serves as the framework that supports your career, as well as your links to professional certification, credentials, contacts and more. Source: National Business Employment Weekly

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS CALLS FORUM TO ADDRESS INFORMATION CONCERNS OF BLIND AND PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED INDIVIDUALS

The Library of Congress, under the auspices of the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, will hold a forum to review service patterns and project-appropriate approaches to meeting the future reading and information needs of blind and physically handicapped people. The meeting will take place in September 1997 in Washington, D.C., and will bring together leaders of the blind community, major library organizations, cooperating service organizations, and federal agencies.

During the three-day gathering, participants will evaluate library service over the past sixty-five years while looking toward the reading needs of the future. Attendees will focus on strategies for meeting needs traditionally provided by a variety of different types of libraries -- public, special, government, college and university, and research.

For more information, contact: Frank Curt Cylke, Director, National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, 1291 Taylor St., N.W., Washington, DC 20542; (202) 707-5104 or fax (202) 707-0712.

In Memoriam

Judy K. Brisbane Dorman

Judy Dorman, past president of AER's Virginia Chapter, died of cancer at the age of 46 on December 24, 1996 in Charlottesville, Virginia.

Born in Adair, Iowa, Ms. Dorman attended the Iowa Braille and Sight Saving School. In the 1960s, she moved to the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area and graduated from Takoma Academy. At the age of 17, she was certified as a braille proofreader by the Library of Congress.

Ms. Dorman graduated from Union College in Nebraska and received a Master's degree from Western Michigan University in rehabilitation teaching. Since 1984, she worked as a rehabilitation teacher with the Virginia Department for the Visually Handicapped.

Ms. Dorman is survived by her husband, Raymond Dorman of Barboursville, Virginia, and stepdaughters.

Source: Washington Post, December 30, 1996

Jeanette M. "Jan" Doweiko

Wisconsin has lost one of its finest teachers, Jan Doweiko. As a graduate of Northern Illinois University, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, and University of Northern Colorado, Jan served visually impaired children in the school district of LaCrosse, Wisconsin since 1991.

Jan was an avid braille lover and taught braille at all levels. She will be remembered with respect and admiration for her commitment by children, families and colleagues who had known her personally and professionally.

Her supervisor Polly Neess stated, "The most precious gift any human being can give to another is the sharing of themselves. Jan reached out to her students and gave of herself - as teacher, a coach, a resource, a friend. Let us honor her life and her work by continuing to look for opportunities to reach out, to connect with each other, to say 'I care, I'm here for you' to one another."

Submitted by: Andy Papineau, State Consultant



Announcing the 1997 AER-Lift Leadership Training Seminar!

- When?** May 9-11, 1997
Where? Adam's Mark Hotel, St. Louis, Missouri
Who? AER Chapter Presidents and Division Chairs

It's no surprise that AER's annual leadership training seminar for chapter presidents and division chairs has become such a popular event! Each year AER offers a brand-new program filled with practical tips for our leaders. And who better to offer advice than our own "seasoned" veterans on the chapter, division and Board levels? Of course we throw in some "fun and games" to keep it interesting!

This year's event will offer general sessions, with an emphasis on how AER's new organizational structure will be implemented, as well as concurrent sessions on specific topics of concern for chapter presidents. During the concurrent sessions, the division chairs will meet separately for their annual "Council of Division Chairs" meeting at which time division business will be conducted.

If you're a chapter president or division chair, now's the time to get together with your peers to share your experiences and learn how to fill those leadership shoes to the best of your ability. Watch your mailbox for details in the coming weeks and meet us in St. Louis!



"The Best of St. Louis"



Feedback from the 1996 AER international conference in St. Louis was so positive that the Continuing Education Committee decided to keep that "spirit of St. Louis" alive throughout 1997 with a new series of **AER-Line Teleseminars** featuring some of the most outstanding workshops and presentations from the '96 conference. Space is limited, so sign up now! **All teleseminars begin at 1:00 pm (EST) and are one hour in length with time for questions from participants.** No special equipment is needed. We'll provide you with the "800" access number so you can call in from any telephone.

"Intervention Strategies for Servicing Children with Cortical Visual Impairment" by Ann Rutherford and Linda Nobles - March 21, 1997

This presentation explores the differences in visual behavior that impact learning between children with cortical visual impairment and children with ocular disorders. The differences mandate divergent programming considerations such as visual stimulation versus simplification, multi-sensory development versus avoidance of sensory overload, and inclusion versus individual instruction.

"Pulling it all Together: A Functional O&M Program for Students with Multi-Impairment/Deaf-Blindness" by D. Jay Gense and Marilyn Gense - May 13, 1997

Many presentations have focused on a single aspect of O&M instruction for students with multi-impairments/deaf-blindness. This seminar is designed to give you an "overall" model of an appropriate O&M program for this population. Participants will be given a packet of information that may be used to either supplement current programs or serve as a "beginning." Concrete examples and handouts will be available in 6 key categories of program development and implementation.

"O&M from A to Z" by Judy Holmes and Peggy Madera - May 20, 1997

Teaching ideas and resources that make O&M skills meaningful and fun will be highlighted, and favorite O&M activities will be accentuated. Participants will have the opportunity to explore successful O&M projects such as community adventures, songs, treasure hunts, O&M journals and newspapers.

REGISTER TODAY!

Yes!! Please sign me up for the following AER-Line teleseminar(s) @ \$39.00 (U.S. funds) per seminar:

_____ **Intervention Strategies for Servicing Children with Cortical Visual Impairment by Ann Rutherford & Linda Nobles -- March 21, 1997**
 _____ **Pulling it all Together: A Functional O&M Program for Students with Multi-Impairment/Deaf-Blindness by D. Jay Gense and Marilyn Gense -- May 13, 1997**
 _____ **O&M from A to Z by Judy Holmes and Peggy Madera -- May 20, 1997**

 Name Daytime Phone Number (with area code)

 Address

 City State/Province Zip/Postal Code

If there are handouts, which format do you prefer? _____ Print _____ Braille _____ Tape

The registration fee is \$39.00 (U.S. funds only) per seminar:

_____ Enclosed is a check made payable to AER or Please charge my _____ Visa or _____ MasterCard

Account # _____ Expiration Date: _____

Signature: _____

Please mail this form with your payment to: AER, P.O. Box 22397, Alexandria, VA 22304. Credit card orders may be faxed: (703) 823-9695.

Fiscal Responsibility...

(continued from p.1)

investment income and gains (without touching the endowment principal). This has led to very little growth in the endowment and thus no real increase in non-dues income. As of result, in order to maintain a balanced budget and not spend from our endowment principal, AER has had to reduce staff positions and limit other spending. This naturally leads to a loss of some related benefits and efforts on behalf of members.

As AER moves forward at a time when we are asked to do more with less, a long range financial plan for the organization becomes critical. This plan, shaped by the Board with input from chapters and divisions, will address short term methods for long term financial stability and growth. It our hope that through this plan we can put a mechanism in place to reduce our reliance on dues increases over the long term.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

As we begin the new year, blindness professionals are confronted with many challenges. The Reauthorization of the Rehabilitation Act faces many obstacles, particularly with respect to specialized services to blind and visually impaired adults.

AER strongly supports disability-specific services and separate agencies for the blind within the rehabilitation system. As members, we must let our legislators know how important disability-specific services are to adults and children who are visually impaired. In the coming months you will be asked to call and write your local legislators. Please be an advocate for our profession and for those people for whom we provide services. While AER is represented on numerous coalitions of and for the blind, I welcome continued dialogue and collaboration with representatives of the National Council of State Agencies for the Blind (NCSAB) and National Council of Private Agencies for the Blind (NCPAB). We need to work together to strengthen the link between organizations.

AER is faced with a difficult situation and we need your feedback. There are commercial companies providing low vision workshops to targeted health care providers (nurses, occupational therapists, physical therapists) who may be involved in vision rehabilitation services. After

participating in these one- or two-day workshops, many of these health care providers are providing low vision and vision rehabilitation services. Should we, as an organization, provide professional development training for these same individuals? Should we work with other professional organizations, such as the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) and American Physical Therapy Association (APTA), to provide training for these professionals?

The upcoming AER-Lift weekend for chapter presidents and division chairs will provide opportunities to solidify the transition process for the "re-engineering" of AER. These leaders on the chapter and division levels will provide input to the Board regarding long range financial planning, topical conferences during off-conference years, an outside certification body, and much more. These leaders will also be there to communicate *your* wants and desires for the organization. It is important to remember that the re-organization allows groups of chapters and divisions to work together on local and regional conferences and workshops. We need your ideas and commitment.

As in any organizational structure, I am learning that change occurs slowly. It is hard for me to be patient! I would like to see greater involvement among our membership and greater cooperation among organizations of and for the blind. I would like us to be proactive and use our strengths in a positive direction rather than being reactive and negative. If you have ideas, issues or concerns, I encourage you to write, call or e-mail me. However the only way we can implement change and make a difference is through your participation and involvement. You can't simply "talk the talk" -- you must "walk the walk."

I hope 1997 is filled with much joy, peace and success for you and your loved ones.

Submitted by: Sharon Zell Sacks, President
SZSacks@aol.com
(510) 657-2319

COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY PROGRAMS

This listing indicates colleges and universities in the United States and Canada offering courses in education and rehabilitation of people who are visually impaired, deaf-blind, and multihandicapped. All of the programs listed here may not necessarily have met the university guidelines established by AER divisions. The programs are listed alphabetically, by state and province, with the following codes:

*	Traineeships, scholarships, or financial aid available
U	Undergraduate
GM	Graduate - Master's level
GD	Graduate - Doctoral level
O&M	Orientation & Mobility
MHB	Multihandicapped
VH	Visually Handicapped
DB	Deaf-blind
RT	Rehabilitation Teaching
RC	Rehabilitation Counseling
RE	Rehabilitation Education
S	Summer
AY	Academic year

ALABAMA

University of Alabama
Educ. o/t Visually Handicapped
Dept. of Special Education
Education Bldg. 4, Rm. 241
Birmingham, AL 35294
Contact: Dr. Mary Jean Sanspree
(205) 934-3440/3700
VH/MHB GM S & AY

ALBERTA

University of Calgary
Dept. of Educational Psychology
Calgary, AB Canada
Contact: Nancy Marlett
(403) 220-3543
VH S
Diploma in Education
Specializing in Visual
Impairment

ARIZONA

University of Arizona
Dept. of Special Education
Education Bldg., Room 412
Tucson, AZ 85721
VH contact: Dr. Jane Erin
(520) 621-7822
VH/MHB O&M GM* S & AY

ARKANSAS

University of Arkansas-Little Rock
Dept. of Rehab. & Spec. Education
2801 S. University
Little Rock, AR 72204
VH contact: Dr. Cay Holbrook
(501) 569-8943
O&M contact: Dr. William Jacobson
RT contact: Dr. Pat Bussen Smith
(501) 569-3169
VH/O&M RT GM*

BRITISH COLUMBIA

University of British Columbia
Dept. of Special Education
Vancouver, BC V6T 1Z5 Canada
Contact: Dr. Sally Rogow
VH Diploma course; requires
grad. degree

CALIFORNIA

California State University, Los Angeles
Dept. of Special Education
5151 State University
Los Angeles, CA 90032

VH contact: Dr. Rose-Marie Swallow

DB contact: Dr. Anne Galloway
O&M contact: Diane Fazzi or Robert Eisenberg (213) 343-4411
RC contact: Dr. Raymond Hillis (213) 343-3000
VH/DB/O&M/RC GM*

Sacramento State University
Dept. of Special Services
6000 J St.
Sacramento, CA 95819
VH contact: Dr. Robert Bowers
MHB contact: Dr. Charlotte Cook
VH/MHB GM* S & AY

San Francisco State University
Special Education
1600 Holloway Ave.
San Francisco, CA 94132
VH contact: Dr. Sally Mangold
O&M contact: Dr. Sandra Rosen
(415) 338-1245
VH/O&M/RT GM GD* S & AY

COLORADO

University of Northern Colorado
O&M contact: David Kappan
(970) 351-1666
VH contact: Dr. Kay Ferrell

(970) 351-1671
Division of Special Education
McKee Hall, Rm. 318
Greeley, CO 80639
VH/MHB/O&M U GM GD* S & AY

FLORIDA

Florida State University
209 Education Bldg.
Tallahassee, FL 32306
(904) 644-4880
VH contact: Dr. Sandra Lewis
O&M contact: Purvis Ponder
RT contact: Lynda Jones
VH/MHB/O&M/RT U GM GD* S & AY

GEORGIA

University of Georgia
Rm. 413, Aderhold Hall
Athens, GA 30602
Contact: Dr. Jack Sink
VH/RT GM GD

Georgia State University
Dept. of Educational Psychology
University Plaza
Contact: Dr. Kathryn Heller
(404) 651-2310
Atlanta, GA 30303
VH/DB GM

ILLINOIS

Illinois State University
Specialized Educational
Development
321 E. Fairchild Hall
Normal, IL 61761
(309) 438-8980
VH U GM GD* S & AY

Northern Illinois University
Dept. EPCSE
DeKalb, IL 60115
(815) 753-0655
VH contact: Dr. Gaylen
Kapperman
(815) 753-8453
O&M contact: Belinda Hawkins
(815) 753-8455
VH/Rural contact: Dr. Toni Heinze

(815) 753-8452
**VH/MHB/RT/O&M
U GM GD* S & AY**

Southern Illinois University
Rehabilitation Institute
Carbondale, IL 62901
(618) 536-7704
Contact: Louis Viececi
**Job development & placement;
RC U GM GD**

INDIANA

Butler University
7725 N. College Ave.
Indianapolis, IN 46240
VH contact: Dr. Mike Bina
(317) 253-1481
VH

KENTUCKY

University of Louisville
Dept. of Special Education
Louisville, KY 40292
(502) 588-6421
VH U GM* GD S & AY

MARYLAND

Loyola College
Maryland School f/t Blind
3501 Taylor Ave.
Baltimore, MD 21236
(410) 444-5000
VH U GM AY

MASSACHUSETTS

Boston College
Division of Spec. Ed. & Rehab.
McGuinn Hall B-29
Chestnut Hill, MA 02167
(617) 552-8000
VH contact: Dr. Richard Jackson
(617) 552-8429
MHB contact: Barbara McLetchie
(617) 552-8431
MHB/VH GM* GD* S & AY

Northeastern University
Dept. of Counseling Psychology,
Rehabilitation & Special Education
203 Lake Bldg.

Boston, MA 02115
MHB contact: Dr. Louise
Lafontaine
(617) 373-2485
RE contact: Dr. James Scorzelli
(617) 373-2487
MHB/RC U GM

**University of Massachusetts-
Boston**
Vision Rehab Projects
100 Morrissey Blvd.
Boston, MA 02125
O&M contact: Bob McCulley
(617) 287-7623
Graduate College of Ed./TRIPD
O&M GM* AY
**Certificate program offered @
grad. level**

MICHIGAN

Eastern Michigan University
Dept. of Special Education
Ypsilanti, MI 48197
Contact: Dr. George Barach
VH U GM S & AY

Michigan State University
Dept. of CEPSE
331 Erickson Hall
East Lansing, MI 48824
Contact: Dr. Lou Alonso
(517) 355-1871
VH/O&M U GM* S & AY

Wayne State University
Teacher Education Division
Detroit, MI 48202
VH contact: Dr. Kenneth Hanninen
MHB contact: Dr. Marshall
Zumberg
(313) 577-0988
VH/MHB U GM GD* S & AY

Western Michigan University
Department of Special Education
Kalamazoo, MI 49008
(616) 387-3455
Spec. Ed. contact: Alonzo
Hannaford
(616) 387-5935
Blind Rehab./O&M contact:
Dr. William Wiener
(616) 387-3457

VH/MHB/O&M/RT U GM* S & AY

MINNESOTA

Mankato State University
Rehabilitation Counseling Dept.
Box 52
Mankato, MN 56001
(507) 389-1318
Contact: Dr. Don Clark
(507) 389-5439
RC GM

University of Minnesota
Room 229, Burton Hall
College of Education
University of Minnesota
Minneapolis, MN 53455
Contact: Dr. Marie Knowlton
(612) 624-1859
VH GM GD S & AY

MISSISSIPPI

Jackson State University
Jackson, MS 39217
Contact: Dr. Ruben Gentry
VH U GM

Mississippi State University
Rehabilitation Counseling Program
P.O. Drawer GE
Mississippi State, MS 39762
Contact: Dr. Glen Hendren
(601) 325-8178
RC GM* GD S & AY

Mississippi State University
Rehabilitation Research & Training
Center on Blindness & Low Vision
P.O. Drawer 6189
Mississippi State, MS 39762
Contact: Dr. Elton Moore
(601) 325-2001
**In-service & continuing
education programs**

NEBRASKA

University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Dept. of Special Education
University of Nebraska, Lincoln
Lincoln, NE 68583-0732
VH contact: Dewaine Alcorn

(402) 472-3955
VH GM* S

NEW YORK

Dominican College
470 Western Hwy.
Orangeburg, NY 10962
VH/RT contact: Dr. Rona Shaw
O&M contact: Cynthia Shaw
(914) 359-7800
**VH/RT/O&M U* S (O&M only)
& AY**

Hunter College
Dept. of Special Education
695 Park Ave.
New York, NY 10021
(212) 772-4701
Contact: Dr. Rosanne Silberman
(212) 772-4740
VH/MHB/DB/RT GM* S & AY

New York University
School of Education, Health &
Nursing Arts Professionals
Contact: Dr. Nancy Esibill
Rehabilitation Counseling Dept.
35 W. 4th St., Room 1200
New York, NY 10012
(212) 998-5290
RE/RC U GM GD

D'Youville College
Division of Education
320 Porter Ave.
Buffalo, NY 14201
Contact: Dr. Sheila Dunn
(716) 881-7629
VH U* AY

**Teachers College, Columbia
University**
Department of Special Education
525 W. 120th St.
Box 223
New York, NY 10027
(212) 678-3862
VH GM GD* S & AY

NORTH DAKOTA

University of North Dakota
Dept. of Special Education
Grand Forks, ND 58201

Contact: Dr. Myrna Olson
(701) 777-3188
VH U GM

OHIO

The Ohio State University
Dept. of Human Services Ed.
101 Student Services Bldg.
154 W. 12th Ave.
Columbus, OH 43210
VH contact: Dr. Marjorie Ward
(614) 292-6446
VH/DB/MHB GM GD* S & AY

The University of Toledo
Contact: Dr. Sakui Malapka
Dept. of Special Education
College of Education & Allied
Professionals
4005-D Gillham Hall
2801 W. Bancroft St.
Toledo, OH 43606
VH U GM

ONTARIO

University of Western Ontario
Contact: Linda Mamer
W. Ross MacDonald School f/t
Visually Handicapped
Brant Ave.
Brantford, ON N3T 3J9 Canada
**Three summers leading to
specialist qualifications
VH/DB S**

Mohawk College
Contact: Dr. Mary-Maureen
Snook-Hill
Brantford, ON
(519) 759-7200 ext. 7127
O&M

OREGON

Portland State University
Dept. of Special Education
Box 751
Portland, OR 97207
(503) 229-4493
Contact: Dr. Sheldon Maron
(503) 229-3000
VH/DB GM* S & AY

PENNSYLVANIA

University of Pittsburgh
Dept. of Special Education
4F29 Forbes Quad
University of Pittsburgh
Pittsburgh, PA 15260
(412) 624-1403
O&M contact: Dr. George
Zimmerman
(412) 624-7247
VH/O&M GM GD* S & AY

Kutztown State University
Dept. of Special Education
Kutztown, PA 19530
(610) 683-4290
Contact: David Ross
(610) 683-4651
VH U AY

**Pennsylvania College of
Optometry**
1200 W. Godfrey Ave.
Philadelphia, PA 19141
Vision Rehabilitation contact:
Dr. Kathleen Huebner
O&M contact: Dr. Audrey Smith
RT contact: Maureen Duffy
(215) 276-6290
**VH/Vision
Rehabilitation/O&M/RT GM* S
& AY**

PUERTO RICO

University of Puerto Rico
Rio Piedras
Department of Education
P.O. Box 23304
San Juan, PR 00931
Contact: Jose Santana
(809) 764-0000

SOUTH CAROLINA

University of South Carolina
College of Education
Programs in Special Education
Columbia, SC 29208
Vision/O&M contact: Annette
Skellenger
(803) 777-7138
VH O&M GM* S & AY

South Carolina State University
Dept. of Human Services
PO Box 7356
Orangeburg, SC 29117
Contact: Dr. C. Brannon
Underwood
(803) 536-8908
O&M/RC GM

SOUTH DAKOTA

Northern State University
Contact: Dr. Ellen Engelhart
Dept. of Special Education
Seymour Hall
Aberdeen, SD 57401

TENNESSEE

**George Peabody College for
Teachers/Vanderbilt University**
Box 328
Nashville, TN 37203
Contact: Dr. Anne Corn
(615) 322-8160
**VH/O&M/MHB GM GD* S &
AY**

**Middle Tennessee State
University**
Elementary & Spec. Ed. Dept.
P.O. Box 69 MTSU
Murfreesboro, TN 37132
Contact: Dr. Charles Babb
(615) 898-2680
VH U GM S

TEXAS

**Stephen F. Austin State
University**
Contact: Dr. Anna Bradfield
O&M contact: Robert Bryant
Counseling & Spec. Ed. Programs
Box 13019 SFA Station
Nacogdoches, TX 75962
(409) 568-2906
VH/O&M U S & AY

University of Texas @ Austin
Special Education Dept., SZB 306
Austin, TX 78712
O&M contact: Dr. Brad Walker
(512) 471-4161

**VH/MH/O&M U GM GD* S &
AY**

Texas Tech University
College of Education
Box 41071
Lubbock, TX 79409
(806) 742-2345
Contact: Dr. Virginia Sowell or
Dr. Alan Koenig; (806) 742-2345
O&M contact: Nora Griffin-Shirley
**MHB/VH/O&M GM GD* S &
AY**

This list provided courtesy of:
Association for Education &
Rehabilitation of the Blind &
Visually Impaired
P.O. Box 22397
Alexandria, VA 22304
(703) 823-9690
Updated: 1/22/97

**Corrections?
Additions?
Deletions?**
**Please let us
know so we can
update this
listing!**
Thank you.

Back by Popular Demand...



“How to Become a Trainer/Supervisor of Orientation and Mobility Assistants”

AER is pleased to offer this two-day seminar for any Certified Orientation and Mobility Specialist (COMS) with at least two years of O&M teaching experience who wishes to become a trainer/supervisor of Orientation and Mobility Assistants. Please note: the dates have changed from our initial announcement in the December 1996 *AER Report*. The confirmed, final dates for this seminar are: **June 6 and 7, 1997** in St. Louis, Missouri.

The presenter for this seminar is Roger Huff, MSE, COMS, COMT/S. Roger is a Statewide Professional Treatment Specialist for the Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation and Coordinator of the Functional Vision Clinic at the San Antonio State School. Mr. Huff has presented this seminar numerous times -- always with rave reviews by participants!

What can you expect to learn? **How to effectively write a proposal for the establishment of an Orientation and Mobility Assistants program in your school or agency. *The certification process for both Orientation and Mobility Trainer/Supervisor and O&M Assistant -- and the importance of these processes. *Your role and responsibilities as an Orientation and Mobility Trainer/Supervisor. *The benefits of having an Orientation and Mobility Assistant. *How to structure an Orientation and Mobility Assistants training program. *How to effectively use the training materials which will be provided at the seminar. *How to supervise with success.*

Four ways to sign up!

Phone: You may register by calling the AER office Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. EST. Call (703) 823-9690 and please have your VISA or MasterCard number available when you call. **E-mail to:** aernet@laser.net and include your credit card number, expiration date and other information from the form below. **FAX** the form below to: (703) 823-9695. Or, **Mail to:** AER, P.O. Box 22397, Alexandria, VA 22304.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State/Province _____ Zip/Postal Code _____

Daytime Telephone # (with area code) _____

Registration rates: AER Members - \$250 Non-members - \$335

_____ Enclosed is my check or money order in U.S. dollars, payable to AER

_____ A Purchase Order is enclosed

_____ Charge my fee to: _____ VISA _____ MasterCard

Account Number _____

Expiration date _____

Signature _____

KOMPUTER KLUTZES into COMPUTER USERS

"60 MINUTES TOWARDS COMPUTER LITERACY" is an 80-minute *audio* cassette, highly praised and recommended by numerous national publications as an introduction to the basic concepts and vocabulary of personal computers. A series of non-technical, non-threatening, and highly imaginative analogies to which all can relate, make these terms and concepts understandable even to the non-technically-minded.

This audio tape explains such things as RAM and ROM, floppies and hard drives, operating systems and application software, word processing and database, windows and menus, and much, much more, including how to buy your first computer--all in terms that everyone should be able to understand.

Thousands of individuals as well as business and professional offices, schools, libraries, and governmental agencies are already using "60 Minutes Towards Computer Literacy."

INTERNET EXPLAINED

"INTERNET EXPLAINED -- SHORT & SWEET" is a 67-minute audio cassette, directed to that same non-*techie* audience, this tape makes the Internet phenomenon understandable to just about anyone.

An understanding of Internet is a necessary part of 1990's awareness. "Internet Explained -- Short & Sweet" gives a clear, intelligent, and enjoyable explanation. The program explains computer networking and the development of an *internetwork*, then describes and illustrates some of the activities and advantages that this offers, including chat groups, e-mail, bulletin boards, home page, the World Wide Web, and more. Praised and recommended by *Booklist* magazine of the American Library Association.

HOW MUCH IS A SATISFIED CUSTOMER WORTH IN YOUR BUSINESS?

"WHO'S IN CHARGE AROUND HERE? -- A Guide to Dealing with the Irate Customer and Other Angry And Upset People" is an 80-minute audio cassette that can place your employee effectively in charge of a potentially damaging situation by explaining to him or her the psychology of such situations and modeling the appropriate response techniques.

Written by a veteran of many years' experience in developing training programs for business and industry, this audio tape prepares your staff for dealing with many stressful situations and helps build a sense of confidence and professionalism.

RUN AN EFFECTIVE MEETING

"YOUR MEETING -- CONSTRUCTIVE, CREATIVE" discusses the dynamics of bringing creativity into a meeting. There is no formula that assures the presence of this ingredient, but the proven leadership techniques explained and illustrated in this tape can provide fertile ground for group creativity.

BUSINESSFILM INTERNATIONAL, 1397 HOPE ST., STAMFORD CT 06907, (203) 968-2255

___ Please send me ___ copy(ies) of "60 Minutes Towards Computer Literacy"

___ Please send me ___ copy(ies) of "Internet Explained -- Short & Sweet" AER

___ Please send me ___ copy(ies) of "Who's in Charge Around Here?"

___ Please send me ___ copy(ies) of "Your Meeting -- Constructive, Creative"

1 cassette \$16.45: 2 cassettes \$24.95: 3 cassettes \$34.95: 4 cassette \$43.95: Additional cassettes add \$9 each.

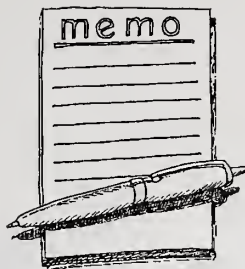
Orders from Connecticut add 6% state sales tax

Enclosing check or purchase order for \$ ____.

Name _____

Address _____

Mark Your Calendars



The President's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities announces their upcoming 50th anniversary, conference, exhibition, and employment fair on June 4-6, 1997 at the Washington, D.C. Hilton and Towers. Registration details: PCEPD, 1331 F St., N.W., Washington, DC 20004-1107; (202) 376-6200 (V); (202) 376-6205 (TDD); (202) 376-6219 (fax); website: <<http://www.pcepd.gov>>.

The 1997 National Conference on Deafblindness, "The Individual in a Changing Society" will be held from June 6-9, 1997 in Washington, DC at the Washington Hilton and Towers. For additional information, contact: The Hilton/Perkins Program, Perkins School for the Blind, 175 N. Beacon St., Watertown, MA 02172; (617) 972-7228; fax (617) 923-8076.

People on the Move



Louise Becker was presented with the AER Northern Rockies Chapter H. Smith Shumway Award which is given to the AER member who has done the most for the chapter. Ms. Becker has participated in the chapter since its beginnings in 1984 and over the years has served as conference planner, newsletter writer, historian and board member. Congratulations!

MANAGED CARE

Building Commitment to an Aging America

MARCH 21-22, 1997

**A SPECIAL PROGRAM SPONSORED
BY THE MANAGED CARE AND
AGING NETWORK AND THE AGING,
DISABILITY AND REHABILITATION
NETWORK OF THE
AMERICAN SOCIETY ON AGING**

**IN CONJUNCTION
WITH ASA'S 43RD
ANNUAL MEETING
MARCH 23-26, 1997
OPRYLAND HOTEL
NASHVILLE**

This conference will include critical information for those in managed care organizations already working with the Medicare population, those positioning themselves to do so, and community-based rehabilitation and long-term care organizations looking to work with the managed care community.

In addition, the aging network of services can use this conference as an opportunity to take control of its destiny in a future in which service delivery will be governed by the principles of managed care and, quite possibly, by managed care companies themselves.

MAJOR CONFERENCE TRACKS INCLUDE:

- Advocacy, Ethics and Consumer Issues in Managed Care
- Measuring Quality and Outcomes in Managed Care
- Improving Clinical Practice
- Integrating Systems of Care

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS INCLUDE:

Bruce Merlin Fried, JD, Director, Office of Managed Care, Health Care Financing Administration, Washington, DC
Cynthia Polich, MA, Author and Lecturer on Managed Care and Aging, Minnetonka, MN • **Gerben DeJong**, PhD, Director, Research Center, National Rehabilitation Hospital, Washington, DC • **Kenneth Brummel-Smith**, MD, Medical Director, Long-Term Care Division, Providence Health Systems, Portland, OR

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT ASA

Fax: (415) 974-0300, any time day or night
Phone: (415) 974-9600 or Email: info@asa.asaging.org.

For up to the minute information, see our web site:
www.housecall.com/oac/asa

105th Congress...

(continued from p.1)

subcommittee which previously handled both IDEA and Rehabilitation. Since Senator Jeffords wants to handle all education issues at the full committee level, that's where IDEA will be dealt with. Reauthorization of the Rehabilitation Act will be handled by that new Labor and Training Subcommittee which will be chaired by Senator Mike DeWine (R, OH).

Even as Committee names and responsibilities were being shifted around, a bill to reauthorize IDEA was introduced into the House of Representatives. HR 5 is virtually identical to the bill which was passed by the House last year. This means that it includes many negative provisions which would narrow the rights of students with disabilities. In addition, it consolidates the discretionary programs in a way which severely limits the federal role in research and personnel preparation. Meanwhile, a Senate bill was expected in late January. But as we go to press, nothing has yet been introduced. Hearings have been scheduled on both the House and the Senate sides. The major issues continue to be "discipline" (disruptive behavior and "cessation") and, of course, cost.

The House, in particular, seems determined to push through their

What on Earth is a COMS?

Have you noticed anyone using the initials "COMS" after his or her name lately? Hopefully, you will see this more and more often as the speciality of Orientation and Mobility continues to upgrade and professionalize.

"Certified Orientation and Mobility Specialist" means that an individual has completed a recognized university program in orientation and mobility and has met the professional standards established by AER's Division Nine.

With all the debate about licensure and how to effectively achieve third party reimbursement, the importance of this designation will continue to grow. Are you eligible for certification but just haven't gotten around to applying? Or maybe you've allowed your professional certification to lapse? Call, write or e-mail the AER office and we will be happy to send you the appropriate application packet. Are you already a Certified Orientation and Mobility Specialist? Then, wear that designation "COMS" with pride!

version with little willingness to accept changes or modifications. A grassroots movement of parents and advocates is urging Congress to leave Part B of the Act alone, to permanently authorize Part H (Infant & Preschool) and to authorize and fund the discretionary programs as they exist in current law. The response from the Hill has been an unqualified "forget it!", as was clear in a letter from Representatives Goodling and Riggs which said: "[T]he status quo is unacceptable..."

As for the reauthorization of the Rehabilitation Act, most of the activity thus far has been in the advocacy community. Rumors abound as to which organizations may endorse a position calling for the elimination of separate agencies

for the blind. Thus far, the only group to formally take such a stand is the National Council on Independent Living.

AER is working with other blindness organizations to protect the current language which at least allows states to have separate blindness agencies. Likewise, we will oppose any efforts to fold rehabilitation into a "one stop" jobs bill similar to last session's HR 1617.

As for other issues, we are bound to have the usual budget battles. The rush to have a "bipartisan" effort to balance the budget could result in serious cuts to critical programs but little is known until the President's budget is released in early February. We will keep you informed as all of these issues move forward.

Coming Soon to a Mailbox Near You: AER International Conference Call for Papers

It's never too early to start thinking about presenting at AER's next international conference! The beautiful city of Atlanta, Georgia will be the site of the July 8-12, 1998 gathering. Details for submitting papers will be provided in our "Call for Papers" -- so watch those mailboxes!



PUBLICATIONS & RESOURCES AVAILABLE THROUGH AER

⇒ ***Preschool Orientation & Mobility Screening*** by Bonnie Dodson-Burk and Everett W. Hill

Price: \$20.00 ea. U.S. funds; Canadian orders - please add \$2.00 per book; Overseas orders - please add \$5.00 per book.

⇒ ***Orientation & Mobility: Techniques for Independence*** by Steven LaGrow and Marvin Weessies

Price: \$30.00 ea. U.S. funds; Canadian orders - please add \$2.00 per book; Overseas orders - please add \$5.00 per book

⇒ ***Rehabilitation Teaching Braille Textbook Review*** by Cheryl Richesin

Price: \$30.00 ea. U.S. funds; Canadian orders - please add \$2.00 per book; Overseas orders - please add \$5.00 per book.

⇒ ***The Parent Perspective on Schools for Students who are Blind and Visually Impaired: A National Study*** by Anne L. Corn, Michael J. Bina and Linda B. DePriest

Price: \$19.95 ea. U.S. funds; Discounts for multiple copies: \$15.00 for two to five copies; \$12.00 for six or more copies.

⇒ ***The Computerized Braille Tutor*** (3 1/2" disk and accompanying manual) developed by Gaylen Kapperman, Toni Heinze, Gregory Henry, Brucie Hawkins, Ted Hines and Jendy Huang

Price: \$9.00 ea. U.S. funds

⇒ AER Career Brochure (***Don't Settle for Just a Job -- Choose a Career!***)

Price: \$.25 U.S. funds ea.

⇒ AER Career Video (***Don't Settle for Just a Job - Choose a Career!***)

(Beta or VHS format: 4-1/2 minute color Public Service Announcement)

Price: \$8.00 U.S. funds ea.

Important Note:

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Questions? Call: (703) 823-9690 or Fax: (703) 823-9695.

University of Arkansas at Little Rock Offers Summer Session

The University of Arkansas at Little Rock (UALR) offers a Master's degree in rehabilitation teaching with a variety of options: traditional format of academic year programming, a special three-week summer program (for four summers) with related coursework taken at the student's local university, and dual degree opportunities.

For the summer of 1997, the three-week session will be held from June 9-27. The courses offered will be: Psychological Aspects of Blindness (instructors Dr. Dean Tuttle and Naomi Tuttle); Introduction to Vocational Rehabilitation (instructors Dr. Larry Dickerson and Robert Hope); and Adaptive Techniques of Leisure Activities. Financial assistance is available for the special summer program.

For additional information, contact: Dr. Pat Smith, Dept. of Rehabilitation, UALR, 2801 S. University Ave., Little Rock, AR 72204; (501) 569-3169; fax (501) 569-8129; e-mail: <pbsmith@ualr.edu>.



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AER REPORT

Volume 14, No. 4

August 1997

Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired

President Signs IDEA into Law!

As reported in the June issue, after years of battles and delays, a compromise bill to reauthorize the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) was finally hammered out and moved quickly through both houses of Congress with overwhelming bipartisan support. On June 4th, before a crowd of several hundred advocates, parents, and children with disabilities, President Clinton signed the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act of 1997. The final version of the bill included the language adding orientation and mobility as a related service and requiring that the IEP team consider the need for braille in the case of all blind and visually impaired children. (See the June *AER Report* for the exact language).

It has long been hoped that the addition of orientation and mobility to the list of related services would bring greater visibility and understanding of this important service. And, in a demonstration of just what we hoped for, the President even mentioned O&M in his speech!

"First, this bill makes it clear once and for all that children with disabilities have a right to be in the classroom and to be included in school activities like work experience, science clubs and field outings. It requires states and school districts to help to get disabled children ready to come to school and to accommodate them once they are there with services ranging from pre-school therapy to sign language interpreters, from *mobility instructors* to an extended school year." (Emphasis added).

Meanwhile, the ink was barely dry on the President's signature before the Department of Education began formulating its plans for the rulemaking process. They hope to have final rules implementing the new law in effect by April 1998, with the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking to be published in September. They have already published a request in the *Federal Register* for preliminary comments. In addition, AER, along with other disability related organizations, testified at a series of meetings held in Washington in mid-July. Once the proposed rules are published there will be another round of public hearings in order to provide for the widest possible input before final regulations are issued.■

A New Team...

AER is pleased to announce that (for the moment) our staff team is complete! New to our starting line-up is the ever-cheerful **Carolyn Sharp**, who joins AER as Receptionist after 15 years as a nurse, specializing in Oncology. Previous to nursing, she was a Secretary at the Department of Defense. In addition to tackling the in-coming calls and fielding questions, Carolyn will be responsible for relaying member address changes and supporting the staff and membership. (When all else fails, Carolyn, remember to punt!)

With 11 years of association experience, most recently as Manager of Education for the Security Industry Association, **Lorna Frazier-Lindsey** is geared up for her role as Member Programs and Services Coordinator/Editor. In addition to writing for and editing AER publications, she will be responsible for certification activities, serving as liaison to chapters and divisions, developing member benefits, recruiting members, and carrying the ball as needed.

But, these aren't the only changes to the AER roster. **Kim Gettings** has the new role of Manager of Membership Records. In this capacity, Kim will be tracking and maintaining member records, generating labels, preparing statistical reports, and producing welcome packages for new members.

The players may have changed, but with **Kathy Megivern** as our head coach, the AER gameplan remains the same — to provide our members with excellent service. Please do not hesitate to call on your AER team!■

Mission: To develop and promote professional excellence through support of those who provide services to people with visual impairments.

From the President

By the time you read this message, the first phase of our Executive Director search will be completed. The Search Committee, under the leadership of Dr. Rick Welsh, has done an outstanding job of developing a structure for the search process, designed evaluation criteria for resume review and interviews, and established a timeline for all activities. The entire Committee must be commended for their hard work and extra hours of volunteer time. Also, the AER Board of Directors provided leadership and direction to the Committee to proceed in a timely and proactive manner.

Despite the changes that have occurred within the AER, Kathy has effectively managed to create an office structure that will meet the needs of our organization. We look forward to a long and successful tenure with our new staff.

Addressing the Southwest Regional AER Conference, I had the opportunity to reflect on AER's activities over the past year. Last October, the Board developed seven goals for this biennium and, to date, we have made strides on each goal.

- The Council of Chapter Presidents and the Council of Division Chairs are actively developing policy for the new AER Board nomination process.
- The Board passed policy to insure sound financial management of its investments and dues generating activities.
- Division 7 has validated a national test for certification, and the Board has approved its certification process.
- Divisions 9 & 11 are exploring the concept of a national test.
- The CRC is looking into the potential for outside certification.
- AER teleseminars have been successful. Karen Wolffe and the Continuing Education Committee are developing new and exciting teleseminars for next year, and are also exploring the concept of topical conferences.
- The Canadian Committee has been exploring the potential for a Canadian office, and at its May meeting, the Board approved the concept including the potential of a part-time staff member. The Board hopes to approve financial support for such an endeavor during this year.
- Our Treasurer, David Ekin, and the Finance Committee have been grappling with a new dues structure that will allow greater benefits for members, expand AER staff, increase and generate income, and allow for expansion of the association's investments.

One of our greatest challenges is membership. While membership has been maintained at 5,000 professionals, membership from the rehabilitation sector continues to decline. We must work hard to bring back the "R" in AER. After my remarks at SW AER, a rehab teacher from Arizona volunteered to call rehab counselors and personnel throughout the state, encouraging participation in AER. I commend and encourage others to follow her example. We have to support the rehab profession with legislative efforts and through grassroots advocacy activities.

An additional challenge is the infusion of health care professionals who believe they can provide specialized rehabilitation services to adults and children who are blind or visually impaired. As a profession, we have a body of knowledge to share. Efforts are underway to meet with the leadership of other professional organizations who may potentially interact with our clients and students.

This year has certainly flown by and the adventure continues. I must admit, however, that AER has been busy and its goals are being accomplished. Progress may be slow, but the results are positive and are building a solid and strong foundation for the future.■

Sharon Zell Sacks

AER Report is published six times a year as a membership service. Chapters, divisions, and individual members are encouraged to submit items of interest for publication to:

Lorna Frazier-Lindsey
Editor

AER Report
P.O. Box 22397
Alexandria, VA 22304
Phone: 703/823-9690
Fax: 703/823-9695
e-mail: aernet@laser.net

AER does not review or evaluate the literature or products listed in its newsletter. A listing, therefore, does not suggest AER endorsement. The views expressed herein represent those of the author(s) and not necessarily those of AER, its Board of Directors, staff or the editor. AER Report provides for the publication of materials that may represent divergent ideas, judgments, and opinions.

AER 1997 Board of Directors

President: Sharon Zell Sacks
President-elect: Peggy Madera
Treasurer: David Ekin
Immediate Past President: Barbara McCarthy

"Blue" Bickford	Ann MacCuspie
Dan Brim	Bob McCulley
Mary Beth Caruso	Mary Nelle
McLennan	
Wendy David	Jim Pietrzycki
Ronni Gilligan	Frank Ryan
Greg Goodrich	Barry Stephens
Judy Holmes	Linda Studholme
Janie Humphries	Leslee Williams
Cris Kostol	George Zimmerman
Sandra Lewis	

AER Staff

Kathleen Megivern, Executive Director
Lorna Frazier-Lindsey, Member Programs
and Services Coordinator/Editor
Kim Gettings, Manager of Membership
Records
Carolyn Sharp, Receptionist
Xiaoming Zhang, CPA, Accountant

Welcome New Members!



Ann Allen (TX)
Holly Allen (Ontario)
Vicki Allen (LA)
Lynn Asher (LA)
Heather Bailey (IN)
Phyllis Bango (IL)
Kimberly Barber (AL)
Beverly Bennett (FL)
Judith Bennett (PA)
Jim Blackwell (AL)
Alison Boutcher (IL)
Franklin Brower (AL)
Catherine Brown (AZ)
Cherie Caprera (FL)
Vernon Cauthen (TN)
Tracy Cavanaugh (PA)
Rachel Clarkson (NY)
George Conway (PA)
Laura Cooper (AL)
Rachael Crane (AZ)
Alissa Cyr (TX)
Deborah Dietz (PA)
Frankie Dissinger (MO)
Annetta Downing (PA)
Walter Ducret (PA)
Nancy Engel (MN)
Audrey Englehardt (IL)
Robin Exsted (MN)
N. Jean Farley (TX)
Patricia Farness (MN)
Constance Fife (IL)
Mimi Flanary (MA)
Nancy Ford (IL)
Allison Geron (TX)
Christina Giani (TX)

Thomas Gilmartin (OH)
James Gilmore (WI)
Michael Glackin (PA)
Michael Graham (CO)
Sara Green (TX)
Gail Haaz (PA)
Elizabeth Hall (GA)
Lilly Harris (NY)
Gina Hill (IL)
Dan Hollis (TX)
Gregory Hudgins (GA)
Roberto Huerta (TX)
Charles Huss (WV)
Gail Irons (AZ)
Jennifer Jaeger (TX)
Cathryn Jann (MN)
Lisa Jorgensen (NJ)
Kevin Kane (PA)
Amy King (TX)
Karen Kramer (NY)
Dolly Lastine (MN)
LaDonna Lee (AZ)
Diane Lentsch (MN)
Liz Lewis (SC)
Paula Lopossa (IN)
Jeanette Maldonado (TX)
Kandace McCue (MI)
Joy McGrew (CO)
Kathleen Meckes (PA)
Angela Milcarek (IN)
Deborah Miller (PA)
Deanna Murray-Shepard (OR)
Gerry Niedermaier (ID)
Adrienne Parks (TX)
Brenda Peacock (Ontario)

Jodi Petrillo-Botte (WI)
Karen Phillips (NY)
Gary Phipps (IL)
Anna Pietrzak (IL)
Beth Ramella Perry (PA)
Lori Reber (GA)
Rachelle Rectenwald (PA)
Carmen Reid (MO)
Timothy Richard (CA)
Frank Riforgiato (NY)
Amy Rinard-Weist (MI)
Maureen Ross (UT)
Betty Sabin (ID)
Marsha Safarik (FL)
Rita Seto (Ontario)
Tamita Sexton (IL)
Mary Skelton (IA)
Wendy Sloat (Ontario)
Elizabeth Smedley (MI)
A. Meg Smith (KS)
Joyce Smith (SC)
Tracy Stafford (IL)
John Staren (MA)
Phyllis Stokes (CA)
Edward Stotts (MI)
Carmen Suarez-Castro (PR)
G. Chris Sundell (SC)
Tara Travland (WA)
Cindy Vantil (MI)
Yvette Vasquez (NY)
Bethan Vaughan (Great Britain)
Linda Von Imhof (MA)
Sheryl Vonbehren (IL)
Pamela Waggener (IL)
Patsy Wheeler (TX)
Daniel White (WV)
Emily Wiggins (AL)
Letitia Wilcox (Ontario)
Nicole Williams (British Columbia)
Rachelle Yanuck (PA)
Kim Zebehazy (MI)■

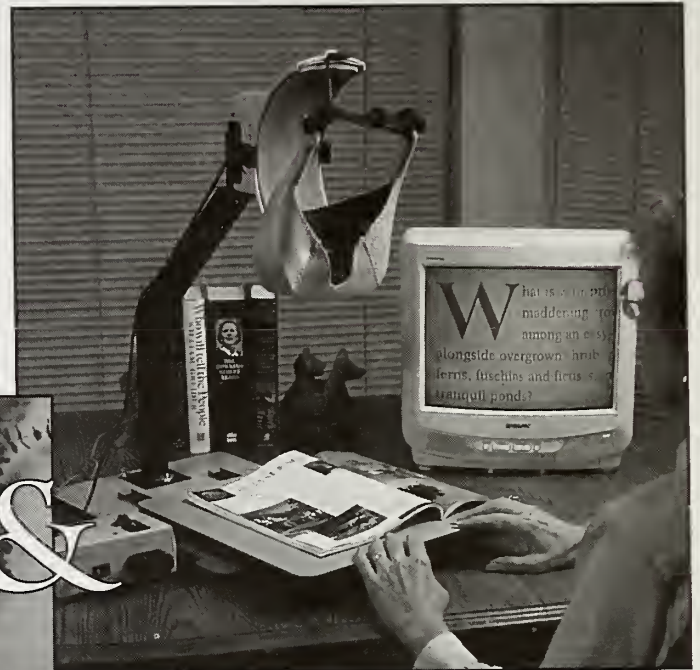
JUST A REMINDER...

The 1998 International Conference is only 11 months away, so mark your calendars NOW! The schedule has been shifted due to hotel availability, so we will be starting with the *Keynote Session* on Wednesday evening, July 8, 1998. During the day on Wednesday, we will have a pre-conference *MacFarland Seminar*, with two separate sessions. The morning will be a medical update and the afternoon will be a "hands on" workshop with a variety of vendors. Tuesday, July 7th, will be "*Division Day*" for those divisions wishing to have some concentrated time of their own prior to the actual opening of the conference.

A new feature for the 1998 conference will be the closing "*Inaugural Brunch*" on Sunday, July 12th, so plan to stay 'till the end, and we promise to send you home with a revived spirit, renewed commitment — and a full stomach!■

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1996 ANNUAL REPORT TO THE MEMBERSHIP

The AER Bylaws require that we report to our members each year on the status of membership and finances. In addition, we publish the official list of persons certified during that year.

1996 was a busy year for AER with elections, re-engineering and the very successful Seventh Biennial International Conference, held in St. Louis, Missouri. We have reported on all of these activities in previous issues of AER Report and if you would like further information on any of them, please contact the AER Office.

AER Board of Directors 1996-97

President: Sharon Sacks
Treasurer: David Ekin

President-Elect: Peggy Madera
Past President: Barbara McCarthy

Canadian Representatives:

Ann MacCusprie and Linda Studholme

Regional Representatives:

Northeast: Mary Beth Caruso and Bob McCulley
Mid-Atlantic: Ronni Gilligan and George Zimmerman
Southeast: Dan Brim and Sandra Lewis
North Central: Judy Holmes and Leslee Williams
South Central: Janie Humphries and Barry Stephens
Northwest: Wendy David and Cris Kostol
Southwest: Greg Goodrich and Frank Ryan
Council of Division Chairs: Mary Nelle McLennan
Council of Chapter Presidents: "Blue" Bickford and Jim Pietrzycki

AER Staff - 1996

Lynn Abbott, Kimberly Gettings, Kathleen Megivern and Xiaoming Zhang

Membership Statistics

Because AER has a rotating membership year (meaning that membership is for twelve months, beginning on the date that the dues payment is processed), the total number of members in the association fluctuates from month-to-month. The best way to arrive at the total number of members, therefore, is to find the average number of members in the organization over the course of a twelve month period.

(Please note that there are members who live in states and provinces in which there are no chapters; the total number of members in the association, therefore, will be larger than the total number of members in the chapters listed below.)

REGION	'94 Average	'95 Average	'96 Average
Mid-Atlantic	987	1018	1018
North Central	1105	1279	1236
Northeast	400	405	392
Northwest	242	233	229
South Central	838	760	751
Southeast	619	628	638
Southwest	725	736	735
Foreign	42	41	44
TOTAL	4958	5100	5043

CHAPTER	'94 Average	'95 Average	'96 Average
Alberta	4	3	5
Alaska	14	10	10
Alabama	104	108	113
Arkansas	157	115	94
Arizona	166	175	177
British Columbia	46	35	32
Colorado	85	81	89
Dakotas	34	35	36
DC/Maryland	163	169	159
Florida	189	200	190
Georgia	90	88	94
Hawaii	17	16	18
Iowa	38	37	35
Illinois	270	279	323
Indiana	69	67	71
Kansas	42	43	43
Kentucky	72	72	80
Louisiana	52	48	50
Manitoba	11	10	12
Michigan	174	184	196
Minnesota	56	61	57
Missouri	55	64	92
Mississippi	84	80	85
North Carolina	97	98	98
Northeast	400	399	393
New Jersey	93	98	94
Nebraska	34	38	37
New Mexico	51	52	47
No. California	188	191	181
No. Rockies	39	36	35
New York	353	366	351
Ohio	173	160	167
Oklahoma	95	96	89
Ontario	114	128	149
Oregon	66	68	63
Penn/Delaware	263	257	253
South Carolina	41	41	49
So. California	165	158	166
Tennessee	87	92	89
Texas	363	352	341
Utah	46	44	46
Virginia	93	89	89
Washington	67	71	75
Wisconsin	80	76	86

"Show Me the Money \$\$\$!"

ASSOCIATION FOR EDUCATION AND REHABILITATION OF THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED-NATIONAL OFFICE STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

Year ended December 31,

1996

	<u>UNRESTRICTED</u>	TEMPORARILY <u>RESTRICTED</u>	PERMANENTLY <u>RESTRICTED</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Support and revenue:				
Membership dues	\$ 353,676	\$	\$	\$ 353,676
Investment income	137,996	927		138,923
Conference	218,345			218,345
Publications	16,211			16,211
Contributions	16,419	1,053	600	18,072
Certification fees	22,347			22,347
Other	26,027			26,027
Net assets released from restrictions:				
Satisfaction of donor restrictions	1,000	(1,000)		-
Total support and revenue	792,021	980	600	793,601
Expenses:				
Program services				
Member activities	291,027			291,027
Public Education - Advocacy-Liaison	45,316			45,316
Professional Development	206,135			206,135
Supporting services				
Management and general	111,914			111,914
Governance	82,503			82,503
	736,895			736,895
Increase in net assets	\$ 55,126	\$ 980	\$ 600	\$ 56,706

ASSOCIATION FOR EDUCATION AND REHABILITATION OF THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED-NATIONAL OFFICE

BALANCE SHEET

December 31,
(With comparative totals for 1995)

	1996			1995	
	UNRESTRICTED	TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED	PERMANENTLY RESTRICTED	TOTAL	TOTAL
Assets					
Current assets:					
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 221,434	\$ 20,002	\$	\$ 241,436	\$ 259,328
Certificates of deposit	39,649	565	18,920	59,134	57,072
Accounts receivable	31,481			31,481	31,366
Accrued interest receivable	27,933			27,933	26,589
Prepaid expenses	13,489			13,489	18,332
Deferred rebate expense	35,470			35,470	30,976
Interfund receivable	320			320	80
Total current assets	369,776	20,567	18,920	409,263	423,743
Investments	2,073,116			2,073,116	1,944,963
Property and equipment:					
Office furniture and equipment,	133,555			133,555	
accumulated depreciation	(90,186)			(90,186)	
	43,369			43,369	45,322
Other assets:					
Deposit	1,366			1,366	624
	\$ 2,487,627	\$ 20,567	\$ 18,920	\$ 2,527,114	\$ 2,414,652
Liabilities and Fund Balances					
Current liabilities:					
Obligation under capital lease	\$ 3,343	\$	\$	\$ 3,343	\$ 2,991
Accounts payable	61,995			61,995	41,482
Accrued expenses	5,224			5,224	8,512
Deferred revenue					
Membership dues	198,790			198,790	173,531
Seminars	78			78	-
Interfund payable			320	320	80
Total current liabilities	269,430	-	320	269,750	226,596
Long-term liabilities:					
Obligation under capital lease, net of current portion	12,602			12,602	-
Net assets	2,205,595	20,567	18,600	2,244,762	2,188,056
	\$ 2,487,627	\$ 20,567	\$ 18,920	\$ 2,527,114	\$ 2,414,652

1996 ORIENTATION & MOBILITY CERTIFICATIONS

INITIAL PROFESSIONAL

ABBOTT, NANCY K.
ADAMS, ANN M.
ANDROSKY, TONYA L.
ARNOLD, SARAH ANN
ARNONE, MARGARET MARY
BAKER, ANNE SWEAT
BANNING, THOMAS
BARONE, TERESA LYN
BEADLES, RHONDA C.
BIGNELL, DEB
BISCHOFF, AMY KAREN
BONSU-WIAFE, AGYEIWA
BOSLEY, SHARON MICHELLE
BOYD, TRINA G.
BRITTIAN, KATHERINE ANN
BROWN, KATHLEEN MARY
BROWN, JILL CORA
BROWN, LYNELLE ENGRAM
BROWN, JOSHUA BRYCE
BRUNO, MYRNA CABRERA
BUSS, JAMES L.
CABRAL, ELIZABETH DA SILVA
CANNISTRARO, KRISTIN E.
CARNES, KELLY CLAYTON
CHANCEY, EILEEN LOUISE
CHILDERS, ANGELA LYN
CLARE, JOHN EDWARD
COADY, JENNIFER A.
COOK, NANCY EMMA
COPASS, RAMONA P.
COUSLIN, MELINDA JANE
CRAWFORD, JAMES SCOTT
CURRY, JILL E.
DEJONGE, JILL KRISTINE
DUCKERT, MARSHA L.
EDWARDS, CINDY R.
ENGRAM, JOY LYNN
ESTRELLA, IRMA
EXELBY, ROCHELLE
FAZZI, VINCENT G.
FINLAY, CHARLENE R.
FLEMING, SR MARY MARGARET
FOLEY, ROBERT RYAN
FONNET, RENEE ANN
FRANQUEMONT, ANGYLN GAIL
FROMM, DEBRA LOU
GAFNEY, DIANE LYNN
GALLOWAY, PAULA LUCILE
GANTON, JENNIFER LYNN
GARDINER, CINDY LOU

GAUGHAN, NORAH A.
GLENN, LAURA A.
GODWIN, BRENDA SUE
GOETZ, LYNDA ANN
GOODE, CHAR L.
HANSEN, MITCHEL B.
HAYON, SAUNDRA DUSSEAU
HENRY, MARK EDWARD
HISE, LEE F.
HOGAN, SANDRA ANN
HOLLAND, ANGELA MCDONALD
HOLM, LYNN MARIE
HOLT, HELEN L.
HULLA, SUZANNE M.
IVERSON, DR. LANDA J.
IVES, KEVIN MICHAEL
JACKSON, SUSAN HAWLEY
JANSSEN, LORI JILL
JIRGL, JAMIE D.
JOHNSON, SUZANNE MARIE
JOHNSON, KENALEA RUTH
JORDET, DAVID M.
JUDD, JAMES C.
KAMINSKY, KAREN M.
KEARNEY, BETTY R.
KISH, DANIEL
KRAMER, JODIE LYNN
KRAMR, CHANTELL MARIE
LANGSTON, JENNIFER MARCELL
LAUER, KIMBERLY RAE
LAUGHLIN, LINDA J.
LAZZARI, LISA LYNN
LEBBIE, MAY S.
LEBERMAN-HEIDEL, AMI ELLEN
MACKAY, JODY GUINN
MANN, LOIS BETH
MASCHO, KAREN DIANE FAGAN
MASON, JON
MCCOLLUM, JOHN PAUL
MCCOPPIN, GEORGE ALLEN
MILLIGAN, KRISTEN GRADY
MOELLER, JUDITH ANN
MOORE, AARON TODD
MORELOS-GUTIERREZ, EILEEN
MURDAY, JILL ELIZABETH
O'BRIEN, MICHAEL WALTER
OLISKY, MARGARET ANN
PALUCH, JACQUELINE ANNE
PARKIN, NANCY JEAN
PASINSKI, CATHERINE E.
PASTEL, TERRY L.

PATTERSON, SHEILA HOWELL
PAYNE, GERTRUDE M.
PISIPATI, SUDHAKAR
PONTUTI, DENISE LYNETTE
PREECE, KATHLEEN SUSAN
PRESTON, SHANNA R.
REED, HELEN J.
RIFFE, PHILLIP DONALD
RILEY, ELIZABETH A.
ROBERTS, TRYNA TERESA
RUDYKOFF, ELLEN CAROL
SANDT, SHERRY K.
SCHMUNK, JON R.
SCHULTZ, SHAWN M.
SEHNERT, DEBORAH S.
SHELDON, JEFFRY BENSON
SIMCO, DONNA LYNN
SIMMS, RICHARD ALLEN
SLIVKA, SHAWN ELIZABETH
SMITH, BRIAN ALAN
SMITH, KIM CLARICE
SORIANO, MARY KAYE
STECHER, SUNNI LEE
STENZEL, MARCUS F.
STEVENS, ANGELA RENEE
STOCKTON, BARBARA V.
STOKES, PHYLLIS DAWSON
STOVER, SHEREE KAY
SWAFFORD, JANIE S.
TIERNEY, JENNIFER L.
TOLLA, JOAN MARY
TOTH, ANNE T.
VILLARREAL, HERMELINDA
VOLLEMANS, MARIE NORA
WILLIAMSON, MARY ELLEN
WRIGHT, SANDRA SUE
WRIGHT, GARY LEE
ZERMENO, ALICIA MIA
ZHU, YING
ZIMBELMAN, JOHN

INITIAL - CANADIAN

AMENU-TEKAA, MARY K.
DUNCAN, PAMELA JANE
KIRK, ALAN DAVID
YEE, BRIAN G.

REACTIVATION OF INITIAL

WILSON, EMMA LEE

RENEWABLE

ADAIR, CINDY S.
BALDWIN, CHRISTINE
BASON, JANIE MARIE RILEY
BERGERON, CYNTHIA CAROL
BLAINE, MELISSA C.
BURKE, KELLY A.
CAMERLIN, ÉLIZABETH JANE
CARUANA, FRANK W.
CHAMPION, TRESSIE A.
CLARY, PAUL THOMAS
CORONADO, VICTORIA A.
COX, JANE S.
CRADER, LESLEY
DELISI, LOUIS
DEMARIO, NORMA CLAIRE
DIEPHOLZ, TRUDY LYNN
DISHER, ROBERT ANDREW
ELDRED, SUZANNE MARIE
FAZZI, DIANE L.
GUTH, DAVID A.
HACKLER, STEPHEN D.
HALPERN-GOLD, JULIA
HALSEY, KAREN R.
HART, KIA JEANINE
HAWKINS, BILL
HERSEE, ANNE B.
HINDMAN, TIMOTHY W.
HOFMEISTER, DEBRA LEE
HOGAN, DENNIS A.
HORNBERGER, KAREN L.
HORNER, DONNA LYNN
HOUSEHOLTER, CHRISTINA R.
HUMBLE, ROD
KEGLER, REGINA ANN
KELLEHER, RICHARD M.
KOHLRUS, CHRISTINE K.
KOOYER-SUPPLITT, DEBORA E.
KOTKOV, FRANCES
KRESKY, THEODORE J.
LADERMAN, DENICE J.
LANKFORD, VANCE W.
LAPAGLIA, ROSEMARY
LIESMANN, MELISSA
LIGAMMARI, KAREN ROSE
LIU, TIEHAN
LOCKLEY, KRIS
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LORENZ, MARY E.
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MARSH, RUTH ANN
MCEACHERN, LEAH V.
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NELSON, DEBORAH ROSE
NIEMCZYK, SHARON ELIZABETH
NOLL, CHRISTINE
O'HAIR, DON
OHM, LAURA
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ONESKY, MARLENE ANN
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COPASS, RAMONA P.
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HAYON, SAUNDRA DUSSEAU
HARKREADER, CHARLA
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JIRGL, JAMIE D.
JONES, BRIAN KEITH
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RIFFE, PHILLIP DONALD
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WAIDA, CHRISTIE K.

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GALLOP, LINDA MARGARET
JAMIESON, SHEILA

OMA TRAINER/SUPERVISOR - INITIAL

PAUL, PETER R.
WALDEN, RUTH A.

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SIFFERMANN, EILEEN

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COZAD, SUSAN I.

DONALD, ANNE B.
DREWNIAK, SUSAN MARIE
DUCKERT, MARSHA L.
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 SOLKO, DEBORAH LYNN
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 XIANG, YANG

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RENEWABLE PROFESSIONAL

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 MCLAUGHLIN, ROBERT L.
 MURILLO, LOUIS J.
 MURPHY, JEAN A.
 PUTNAM, SANDRA C.
 SEVILLE, FANNY L.
 SMITH, CLAUDE
 THOMPSON, ROSIE L.
 WILBERG, DEBRA A.
 WISELEY, EMMA L.
 WITTE, RANDALL G.



The California School for the Blind is extremely pleased and proud to announce that AER President **Dr. Sharon Zell Sacks** is joining their staff in the position of Director of Education effective August 11, 1997. "We are very excited to add this tremendously talented leader in the field of blindness education to our administrative team," said Superintendent Stuart Wittenstein. A hardy congratulations on your new post, Sharon!■

After nearly 29 years of service, AER member **David Search** is retiring from the Michigan Commission for the Blind. David promises to remain active in MAER. Best wishes for a happy retirement!■

Congratulations to AER member **Robert J. Mills, COMS**, chief peripatologist at the Ohio State School for the Blind, on his July 1st retirement! Relax and enjoy!■

Kudos to AER member **Alan Koenig** on being awarded the prestigious CEC-DVI Distinguished Service Award. Alan was recognized for his excellence and commitment. In addition, CEC-DVI awarded AER member **Penny L. Rosenblum** the Outstanding Dissertation of the Year Award. A round of applause go out to both Alan and Penny!■

AER member **Craig Phillips**, of the Kansas State School for the Blind, has been named the 1997 Outstanding Teacher of Students who are Blind and Visually Impaired, an honor that is awarded annually by the Principals of Schools for the Blind. Congratulations on your achievement, Craig!■

AER member, **Dr. Gerald Mundy**, has been appointed Executive Director of the National Accreditation Council for Agencies Serving the Blind & Visually Handicapped. Best wishes to you as you assume this position in the fall.■

Buck Schrotberger, champion advocate of student services and parent and teacher support, and AER member, retired from the Colorado Department of Education in June after 29 years of service. Although he will continue to do some contract work for CDE, he will mostly enjoy the life of a retired person with a red corvette convertible and a love for travel. Enjoy, Buck!■

Hats off to **Lou Alonso**, AER member, as a recipient of the Anne Sullivan Medals by Perkins School for the Blind. The award was presented to Lou at the National Conference of Deafblindness in Washington, DC, in June.■

Congratulations to AER member **Dr. Diane P. Wormsley**, who has accepted a position with the Pennsylvania College of Optometry. She will be the new Coordinator of the Education Program for Children and Youth with Visual and Multiple Impairments in the Department of Graduate Studies in Vision Impairment.■

AER member **Julie Brock** has been appointed the AER representative to the Advisory Council of Mississippi State University's Rehabilitation Research and Training Center. Keep up the good work, Julie!■

AER life member **Dr. Virginia M. Frank**, and her Leader Dog Tiger, were honored by Sigma Alpha Iota for their efforts and devotion to the field of music for the past 25 years. The duo was also honored as Lion of the Year by Lions International. Congratulations on your life time of achievements!■

Best wishes are extended to AER members **James Sanders** and **Gary Magarrell** on their appointments to two vice-president positions at the Canadian National Institute for the Blind. James will serve as vice-president client services and technology, while Gary will act as vice-president operations and strategic planning.■



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

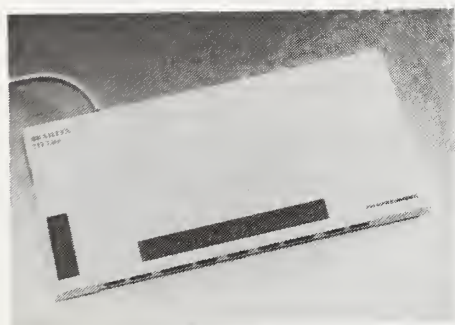
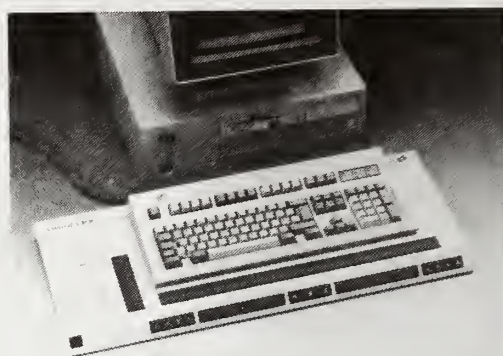
SWOMA/SOMA 1997— December 14-16, 1997; Fairmont Hotel, New Orleans, LA. One of the largest conferences of O&M specialists, includes exhibits. For detailed information, contact Lynn Gautreaux or George Tully at 504/342-4754.■

The 9th International Mobility Conference — July 1-6, 1998, Atlanta, GA. "O&M Moving into the 21st Century." For detailed information, contact Dr. Bruce Blasch at 404/320-0079.■

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"The Best of St. Louis" Continues

The response to our teleseminar series, *"The Best of St. Louis,"* has been so positive, we have scheduled another three seminars. These are one-hour telephone seminars on three of the **hottest** topics from last year's conference program. It takes no special equipment to participate, just a telephone and a comfortable spot! We provide participants with a toll-free access number, so you can call in from wherever you are. All teleseminars begin at 1:00 pm (Eastern Time).

"Creative Orientation and Mobility: Just Do It!"

Lydia Peterson - November 4, 1997

Have you ever taught orientation & mobility in a swimming pool, on a rollercoaster, or in a dance class? Join Lydia Barden Peterson from St. Paul Public Schools (Minnesota) to share creative teaching ideas that are meaningful, unconventional, practical, fun and creative.

"The Development of an Assessment Instrument for Identification and Early Intervention of Infants with Cortical Visual Impairment"

Christine Roman - November 6, 1997

This presentation provides results of dissertation research which focuses on the development of a valid and reliable instrument for the assessment of infants with cortical visual impairment. The instrument incorporates the use of parent interview and infant behavior data to identify infants most at risk for cortical visual impairment.

"Career Counseling with Teens and Adults"

Karen Wolffe - November 13, 1997

In this presentation, Dr. Wolffe will discuss techniques to facilitate career counseling for teens and adults with visual impairments. She will also introduce participants to the APH Tote, an organizer that includes career education materials designed for high school students.

☐ **YES!! Please sign me up for the following teleseminars @ \$39 (U.S.) per seminar for AER members (Non-members - \$59 per seminar):**

- ☐ **"Creative O&M" - Lydia Peterson — Nov. 4, 1997**
- ☐ **"Development of an Assessment Instrument..." - Christine Roman — Nov. 6, 1997**
- ☐ **"Career Counseling ..." - Karen Wolffe — Nov. 13, 1997**

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RE:sources

*From: National Museum of Natural History
Smithsonian Institution*

An audio described tour of the permanent marine exhibit — Exploring Marine Ecosystems — opens in late July 1997 at the National Museum of Natural History. The tour will be available free of charge to low vision and blind visitors. The Museum is located at 10th & Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC.■

From: RBP Products

At last, the visually impaired can enjoy cooking again! Here's a cookbook designed to allow those with low levels of sight prepare meals from recipes without using a magnifier. Now visually impaired cooks can enjoy a new freedom in cooking. Bill's BIG TYPE Cookbook - Volume 1 - Dinner from Soup to Desert is now available for \$24.95 plus \$3.50 shipping and handling. (Minnesota residents need to add 6.5% sales tax.) Contact: Bill Anderson, RBP, (888) 522-0506.■

Many Thanks!

A very special thank you goes out to the following members for contributing to AER's MacFarland Stipend Fund, Lowenfeld Publications Fund, and General Operating Fund:

★Jan R. Caron	★Maureen Duffy	★Elizabeth Haag
★George Lopez	★Julie Misegades	★Nancy Preston

Thank you for helping us to support those who provide services to people with visual impairments.



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AER REPORT

Volume 14, No. 5

October 1997

Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired

A Little News and Some Deja Vu

by Kathleen Megivern

Sometimes it seems as if every newsletter printing deadline is accompanied by a flurry of activity in Congress. This is probably not "cause and effect," but just coincidence. Nonetheless, it makes it very difficult to report on the status of Congressional action, at least without those qualifying words, "as we go to press..."

And, so, as we go to press, there is lots of activity but little in the way of final action on which to report.

Reauthorization of the Rehabilitation Act

As you may remember from the June issue of *AER Report*, the House of Representatives has already passed its version of a bill to reauthorize the Rehabilitation Act. HR 1385, like last year's CAREERS Act, includes provisions which consolidate many existing federal jobs programs. But unlike the CAREERS Act, this year's version does not merge the Rehabilitation Act into that consolidated program. Instead, the provisions which reauthorize the Rehabilitation Act are kept separate (as is the funding!). Also, attempts by some to eliminate separate state agencies for the blind were fought back. In addition, the final version does not do anything to weaken the Title VII, Chapter 2 program of Independent Living Services for Older Blind persons.

After months of drafting and re-drafting, Senate staffers report that they are in the final phases of developing the Senate language to reauthorize the Rehabilitation Act. However, as we go to press (there's that phrase again!), no specific language is yet available. The plan is to have the Republicans, the Democrats, and the Administration reach consensus on the language before it is then released as a "discussion draft." There have been several generations of "summaries" issued by Senate staff. Many of the changes being contemplated are described as efforts to "streamline" everything from the state plan to the current requirements for an IWRP (Individualized Written Rehabilitation Plan).

Continued on page 13

Getting in Touch with Literacy Proceedings are Published by AER

Hot off the press! AER is pleased to announce the *Proceedings of the Second Biennial Conference of Getting in Touch with Literacy*, published by AER's Berthold Lowenfeld Fund, is now available. The second in a series of resources to be published by the Lowenfeld Fund, the *Proceedings* is a compilation of the philosophical issues, research studies, new and innovative programs, and "this-worked-for-me" strategies presented at the Second Biennial Conference.

This 190-page resource contains the papers delivered at the Conference, where over 450 educators, rehabilitation specialists, consumers, administrators, parents, and other interested individuals attended to discuss issues, share ideas, examine new teaching materials, and visits with friends and peers. The *Proceedings* represent some of the outstanding work that is being done throughout the country and the world in the area of literacy for persons with visual impairments.

In producing this desk-reference tool, its editors, Alan J. Koenig and M. Cay Holbrook hope that "The *Proceedings of the Second Biennial Conference of Getting in Touch with Literacy* will promote your own reflection and provide some practical strategies and ideas."

The cost of this new publication is \$25, and it is available through AER. For more information on this and other AER publications, contact AER headquarters at (703) 823-9690. ■

Inside This Edition:

- ★ *Clinton Recognizes "Year of Specialized Schools"*
- ★ *AER Call for Awards*
- ★ *NASDSE Receives Grant*
- ★ *Low Vision Therapist Certification*
- ★ *RE:sources, Across the Spectrum, and More!*

Mission: To develop and promote professional excellence through support of those who provide services to people with visual impairments.

From the President

In the next few months, the AER Board of Directors will be faced with many decisions and changes. To date, the tasks completed by the search committee formed to find a new executive director for AER have been significant. We received over 120 applications for the position. A subcommittee narrowed the applicant pool down to 33 potential candidates. Each candidate was sent a packet describing the issues facing our organization, a description of the position's job duties, and a questionnaire with several open-ended questions, and were asked to respond to the questions by explaining how their experiences would benefit AER. Of the 33 candidates, the committee received 19 completed questionnaires. The search committee has just completed its evaluation of the responding candidates. Rick Welsh, the search committee chair, will rank the candidates and invite finalists to Alexandria for an in-person interview on November 2 and 3, 1997. While the committee is extremely pleased with the pool of candidates, those of us who work with Kathy Megivern on a daily basis realize how valuable and talented she is to our organization, and how difficult she will be to replace. We will all miss you, Kathy!

In the coming months, AER members will be receiving information regarding nominations for the offices of President-elect, Secretary, Treasurer, and Canadian representative. I encourage you to seek out potential leaders who have been active at the chapter level or within divisions. This is an extremely important time for AER, and the organization needs strong and committed leadership. In addition, chapter presidents within districts will be meeting to nominate candidates for district representatives to the Board.

Speaking of the association's leadership, the fifth *Operation AER-Lift Conference*, which has grown to become the forum for our leaders to map out the association's direction, will take place in Alexandria, VA, on April 3-5, 1998. Not only will chapter presidents and representatives from divisions be able to participate in numerous leadership training activities, they will be instrumental in helping to make decisions for our organization's future. Also, during next year's *AER Lift*, we will have a farewell gala in honor of Kathy Megivern. If you wish to be included in the planning or participate in the gala, please contact Lorna Frazier-Lindsey at the AER office. ■

Sharon Zell Sacks



AER Report is published six times a year as a membership service. Chapters, divisions, and individual members are encouraged to submit items of interest for publication to:

Lorna Frazier-Lindsey
Editor

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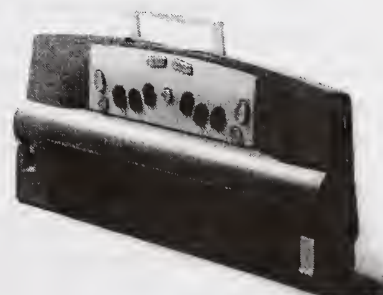
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NASDSE Receives Grant to Develop Educational Guidelines

The National Association of State Directors of Special Education (NASDSE) has been awarded a two-year grant by the Hilton/Perkins Program of the Perkins School for the Blind (an AER member) to develop and disseminate an educational guidelines document. The broad-based document will be available as a resource for communication and coordination among organizations on behalf of students who are blind, visually impaired, or multi-handicapped blind. The National Agenda for the Education of Children and Youths with Visual Impairments, Including Those with Multiple Disabilities, a consensus building document endorsed by more than 100 national organizations, including AER, will provide the operational framework for NASDSE's Blind/Visually Impaired Initiative.

NASDSE, in collaboration with the national and state organizations involved in the process of identifying and developing the goals outlined in the National Agenda, will assume partnership roles in the Blind Education Initiative. Representatives from the major national consumer, advocacy, and educational organizations will be invited to serve for a two-year period in the development of a national educational guidelines document which will address the following areas:

- ◆ Foundations for the education of students who are blind, visually impaired, and multi-handicapped blind;
- ◆ Characteristics of an appropriate framework for services;
- ◆ The process for identifying and assessing individual needs;
- ◆ Concepts which must be addressed after an appropriate assessment has been completed;
- ◆ A review of program options and decisions regarding appropriate placements;
- ◆ Characteristics of personnel who will work to meet the individual needs of children once an appropriate placement has been identified; and,
- ◆ A glossary which will provide an in-depth look at the terminology used throughout the document.

The project will be directed by Dr. Gaylen Pugh, who previously directed NASDSE's National Deaf Initiative which has been adopted by many states as their state guidelines for the provision of services for deaf and hard of hearing students, and has been used as a text in many university training programs and by parent advocacy groups across the country. Pugh has over 20 years' experience in administering and supervising services to a diverse population of children and youth.

NASDSE, a not-for-profit organization founded in 1938, lists its mission to "provide services to State agencies to facilitate their efforts to maximize educational outcomes for individuals

with disabilities." NASDSE is dedicated to fulfilling its mission by focusing particularly on collaborative partnerships with a wide range of agencies, organizations, and associations with specific interest in improving the quality of community life for individuals with disabilities. ■

Mark Your Calendars!



October 26-28, 1997: NY AER's 13th Annual Conference, Holiday Hills Conference Center, Pawling, NY. This year's theme is "Life Long Learning: Looking at the Whole Person." For more information,

contact: Andrea Mondo at (716) 937-5695 or John Kelly at (914) 429-6524. ■

November 6-7, 1997: AZ AER Annual State Convention, Prescott Resort, Prescott, AZ. "The Mind's Eye: Exploring the Psycho/Social Side of Blindness and Visual Impairment." Registration fee is \$60 for AER members; \$90 for non-members. For more information, contact: AZ AER c/o Sandra Stirnweis, VP, Foundation for Blind Children, 1235 E. Harmont, Phoenix, AZ 85020. ■

November 7-8, 1997: The Columbia Lighthouse for the Blind will sponsor a two-day Technology Exposition featuring more than 20 exhibitors. No charge. To register, call Allyson O'Sullivan at (202) 462-2900 ext. 3045. ■

November 12-14, 1997: North Central Regional Conference, Cleveland, OH. Full conference registration fee is \$90 for AER members/\$110 for non-members. A one-day registration is available. Contact: Jim Pietrzycki, 5102 Wellington Avenue, Parma, OH 44134, phone (216) 885-4361, or e-mail jjmpie@en.com. ■

February 8-15, 1998: 23rd Annual Ski for Light International week, Four Points Hotel, North Conway, New Hampshire. The fee for the event is \$625, double occupancy (\$750 for single). To receive a registration form, call Larry Showalter at (614) 478-7898. ■

July 8-12, 1998: AER's International Conference, Hyatt Regency Hotel, Atlanta, GA. Watch upcoming *AER Reports* and your mailbox for additional conference information and highlights. ■

July 12-16, 1999: Vision '99: Vision Rehabilitation in the 21st Century, Waldorf-Astoria, New York, NY. This is the premier conference on low vision research and rehabilitation, attracting professionals from more than 70 countries. To be added to the mailing list for event information, contact The Lighthouse, Inc. (800) 334-5497. ■

Imagine Visualizing a Computer Screen Top to Bottom. STOP IMAGINING

Papenmeier leaves nothing to the imagination with their two dimensional braille display. No longer imagining your cursors location on a computer screen. Know where the page begins and where the page ends and the location of the information in between.

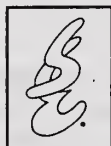
Papenmeiers 2 dimensional braille displays give blind computer users easy access to the computer screen. A sighted computer user has access to information on a computers screen vertically as well as horizontally. Papenmeiers 2 dimensional braille displays give blind users a conventional 40 or 80 cell Braille display as well as a second vertical display with 4 dots per line, which show an extensive status of the complete computer screen. No more guesswork. Sighted Electronics makes this innovative product available to you.

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From the low cost, durable, portable, Porta Thiel Braille Embosser, or it's Interpoint version. Weighing in at under 10 pounds with a carry handle incorporated into its design the Porta Thiel is the most portable, affordable, embosser available. Starting at under \$2000 for the single side version and at \$2835 for an interpoint. The portable "Porta Thiel" is the perfect solution for the mobile active student or professional who needs to be able to access braille at home, work, or on the go.

For speed with proven reliability at an affordable price, the Index Basic and Everest are the latest innovative designs in interpoint braille. The re-designed Everest's paper feed system gives braille users the ability to buy card stock paper at the local office supply store. If the conventional tractor feed system is what you want the Basic S or Basic D is efficiency at about 300 pages per hour. Thiel commercial grade, production Braille Embossers, the Bax 10 at 800 interpoint pages of braille per hour or the Impacto at 600 interpoint pages per hour.

For the full line of braille products or the dealer nearest you call
Sighted Electronics at (800) 666-4883 or visit us on the internet at <http://village.ios.com/~sighted/>



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AER Member Notes...

Best wishes to AER member **Dr. Martha Cay Holbrook** as she begins her new position at the University of British Columbia. She was formerly with the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. ■

A round of applause to **Gala Brooks**, Melrose Park, IL, on recently receiving the Illinois AER Distinguished Service Award! ■

Hats off to AER Member **Dr. Carolyn Carman-Merrifield**, Therapeutic Optometrist and Optometric Rehabilitation Specialist, who has been elected Chair of the Texas Optometry Board. She was appointed to the Board by Texas Governor George W. Bush in 1995. ■

Congratulations to AER Member **Scott Marshall**, Vice President of Government Relations for the American Foundation for the Blind, on being awarded the prestigious Durward K. McDaniel Ambassador Award from the American Council of the Blind. The award, named in honor

of the late Durward K. McDaniel, who was a founder of ACB and its first national representative, as well as a leader in the consumer movement among blind people, was presented at ACB's annual convention in Houston, TX. In addition, during the Houston convention, AER's own executive director, **Kathleen Megivern**, was honored with ACB's first National Distinguished Service Award for all of her contributions to the field. Congrats, Kathy! ■

AER Member, **Brian Whitmer** of Tallahassee, FL, has been named as one of the recipients of the American Foundation for the Blind's Rudolph Dillman Memorial Scholarship. Brian is studying adapted physical education at Florida State University. Congratulations! ■

A standing ovation goes out to AER member, **Philip Hatlen**, superintendent of the Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired, who will be receiving the American Foundation for the Blind's 1997 Migel Medal at a ceremony on November 7, 1997. The Migel Medal was established to honor professionals and volunteers whose dedication and achievements have significantly improved the lives of people who are blind or visually impaired. ■

MANY THANKS!!

A very special thank you goes out to the following members for their generous contribution to AER's MacFarland Stipend Fund, Lowenfeld Publications Fund, and General Operating Fund:

- ★ Mimi Anderson
- ★ Kelly Doyle-Bucci
- ★ Laurie Everett
- ★ J. Eileen Kuhre
- ★ Martha Pamperin
- ★ Linda Reed
- ★ Rachel Ethier Rosenbaum
- ★ Carolin Ladell Sinkfield
- ★ Carla A. Wirzbarger

Thank you for helping us to support those who provide services to people with visual impairments.

New, Affordable 4-Track Tape Player Available!

Recording for the Blind & Dyslexic (RFB&D) introduces **the Slimline Desktop**. This reliable Sony unit is perfect for home, classroom or library use. It plays both 2- and 4-track cassettes, and it records on 2-track commercial tapes.



It has all the features you need:

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The Slimline Desktop costs only \$99. Call RFB&D for more information:



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1-800-221-4792

<http://www.rfbd.org>



Shine the Spotlight on the Great Achievers! AER's Call for Awards

Let's face it. With the hectic pace of life today, we are more apt to put pen to paper to write a complaint about someone's poor performance rather than a rave review on an excellent achievement. Well, here's an opportunity to turn that around and let us know about the "positive success stories" in the field.

During AER's biennial International Conference, we take time to recognize the finest in the field by presenting individuals, authors and chapters with the association's most prestigious awards. So, let us know if there's someone who has served as your personal mentor or influenced your career in some way by nominating that person for an AER award. Or, if someone has authored an article or book that you know use as a daily reference, honor that person by nominating them for recognition of a job well done. Or, if your chapter has gone above and beyond its duty of serving its members, let the chapter leadership be recognized in front of their peers during the Conference by receiving an AER award.

Outlined below are the different AER awards, each award's nominating criteria, and what forms to request in order to nominate someone. Please note, nominations must be postmarked no later than February 1, 1998, in order to be presented at the 1998 International Conference in Atlanta, GA, July 8-12.

To nominate an individual, please contact AER at (703) 823-9690 or via e-mail at aernet@laser.net, and ask for the appropriate award nomination form. Don't miss this opportunity to shine the spotlight on the "best of the best" in our field!

MARY K. BAUMAN AWARD

The Mary K. Bauman Award was established to honor an individual who has made a significant contribution to the education of children who are blind or visually impaired. The first recipient of the award was Mary K. Bauman (1982) and recent winners include: William English (1994), Jane Erin (1996), John Ed Chiles (1992), J. Max Wolley (1990), Georgie Lee Abel (1988), Elinor Long (1986), and Josephine Taylor (1984). To nominate an award candidate, request the 1998 Bauman Award Form.

AMBROSE M. SHOTWELL AWARD

The purpose of the Shotwell Award is to acknowledge the outstanding achievements of an individual whose leadership and services in the field have exerted influence on a national or international scale. The most recent recipients of this award include: Natalie Barraga (1984), Warren Bledsoe (1990), William Gallagher (1992), Alfred Rosenbloom (1988), Irvin Scholoss (1986), Richard Welsh (1996), and Russell Williams (1994). Please ask for the 1998 Shotwell Award Form to nominate an outstanding individual.

ALFRED ALLEN AWARD

Nominees for the Allen Award should be those professionals whose character and dedication epitomize the spirit and quality of direct service to people with visual impairments. Past award winners are: Nancy Akeson (1986), Robert Brasher (1990), Juliet Esterly (1994), Cay Holbrook (1992), Lowell Legge (1984), David Loux (1996), and David Manzer (1988). To submit an entry, request the 1998 Allen Award Form.

JOHN H. McAULAY AWARD

This award is presented in recognition for outstanding achievement in the placement of people who are blind or visually impaired. Recipients of past awards include: James Kesteloot (1996), Judy Lloyd (1984), John Maxson (1994), Gerald Miller (1992), George Sippi (1990), and National Industries for the Blind/General Council of Workshops for the Blind (1986). Request the 1998 McAulay Award Form to nominate an outstanding achiever.

C. WARREN BLEDSOE AWARD

This honor is granted by the AER Publications Committee in recognition of a noteworthy piece of literature in the field of blindness. The criteria used in selecting a recipient is that the publication: 1) Presents new facts and/or concepts about blindness; 2) Presents a new perspective on a fundamental problem(s) in blindness; 3) Clearly stresses some particular need in the field and elicits a response in the concrete form of contributions and/or legislative activity; 4) Successfully popularizes the life and times of people with visual impairments within the sighted community. The 1996 Bledsoe Award was presented to Kathleen Huebner, Jeanne Glidden Prickett, Elga Joffe, and Therese Rafalowski Welch, editors of *Hand in Hand: Essentials of Communication and Orientation and Mobility for Your Students Who are Deaf-Blind*. To bring a notable work to light, request the 1998 Bledsoe Award Form.

Continued on page 8

Continued from page 7

OUTSTANDING CHAPTER AWARD

Nominees should be those chapters whose membership efforts have been outstanding. The criteria by which a chapter's activities are measured include: individual and corporate membership growth and retention; number and quality of local programs offered (including newsletter publishing); and legislative or other activity on a local or regional level significantly affecting the lives of people who are visually impaired. The Arkansas, Northeast, Mississippi, Texas, Northern California, and Illinois Chapters have all been recognized in past years. To nominate a worthy chapter, request the 1998 Outstanding Chapter Award Form. ■

1996-98 Awards Committee

Bryan Gerritsen, Chair

Mary Beth Caruso	Jane Erin
Rosanne Silberman	Rick Welsh



1996-98 Publications Committee

Marshall Flax, Chair

Martha Bagley	Phil Hatlen
Kathy Huebner	Sandy Lewis
Mary Nelle McLennan	Eugene McMahon
Elton Moore	Harry Svensson

AER Shows Its Support

In an effort to increase public awareness about the prevention and treatment of vision loss and the importance of rehabilitation when vision loss cannot be reversed, the Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired was a proud co-sponsor of this year's National Vision Rehabilitation Day, September 17, 1997. ■



APPROVED O&M UNIVERSITY PROGRAMS



The following is an updated listing of O&M university programs approved by AER for certification purposes:

Western Michigan University
University of Pittsburgh
University of Northern Colorado
San Francisco State University
California State University at Los Angeles
Florida State University
University of Arkansas at Little Rock
Stephen F. Austin State University
Massey University (New Zealand)
Michigan State University
Texas Tech University
Northern Illinois University
University of Arizona
Pennsylvania College of Optometry
University of Massachusetts - Boston
Mohawk College (Ontario)
South Carolina State University

Are YOU...

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The only publication of its kind, **Job Exchange** is a monthly listing of available national and international job openings in the field of assisting the blind and visually impaired. And, it's only available to AER members.

Your initial six-months subscription is *free of charge*. Subscriptions can be renewed for six months for the nominal fee of \$10.00.

Get a handle on your career! Contact AER today to start your subscription at (703) 823-9690.



RE:sources

From: National Braille Press

Seek and ye shall find...National Braille Press is selling a 3-volume braille edition of "The AltaVista Search Revolution: How to Find Anything on the Internet" for \$18.95. Contact: National Braille Press at 800-548-7323.■

From: The Cinema Guild, Inc.

Disability Issues Videos including such new releases as "Portraits of Possibility," a documentary examining the participation of the blind and visually impaired in competitive athletic events, and "Out of Sight," an offbeat feature documentary that shatters the stereotypes about the disabled in its portrayal of a northern California blind cowgirl. Other videos are obtainable. Price vary, rentals available. Contact: The Cinema Guild, Inc. at (800) 723-5522.■

From: The Hadley School for the Blind

The Hadley School for the Blind is pleased to offer a brand new course catalog in large print, braille, on audiocassette and disk. Students can select from more than 90 courses in six core course areas: Academic and High School, Braille and Other Communication Skills, Independent Living and Life Adjustment, Recreation and Leisure Time, Technology, and Parent/Family Programs. For a copy of the catalog, call (800) 323-4238.■

From: AER Listserv

Announcing a new discussion group for teachers with disabilities. The purpose of the discussion is to share information about problems and solutions regarding teaching with a disability, to give and receive support, and to provide some guidance for disabled persons who wish to pursue a teaching career. To subscribe, send an e-mail message to listserv@listserv.montana.edu. In the body of the message type: subscribe DATEACH. Please do not include a signature block to the listserv processor.■

From: AER Listserv

Perkins School for the Blind recently published the book, "Classroom Collaboration," by Laurie Hudson, a New England O&M teacher with 25+ years of experience. The book is written for those on public school teams, who work with students who have significant visual impairments. It is designed to structure and support the initial in-service training and planning sessions with classroom teachers,

aides and other school staff. Cost: \$20. To order, contact Perkins School f/t Blind, Public Relations and Publications, 175 N. Beacon Street, Watertown, MA 02172.■

From: AFB Press

AFB announces the release of its latest video, "Brief Encounters of the Right Kind...Or, How To Make Your Point as an Advocate in 10 Minutes or Less." It's a humorous and instructional tour of the do's and don'ts of lobbying at the local, state, and national levels. The 47 - minute, color video is \$49.95 plus \$5.00 s/h. For information, call AFB Press at (800) 232-3044.■

From: Mississippi State University

The Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Blindness and Low Vision at MS State University has a new publication entitled, "Serving Individuals with Diabetes who are Blind or Visually Impaired: A Resource Guide for Vocational Rehabilitation Counselors." It contains a wide variety of resources on various diabetes publications, medications, and appliances, as well as Internet listservs and web sites. The guide is available in large print, Braille, audio cassette, or computer disk for \$25. Call (601) 325-8693.■

From: AER Listserv

"The Bridge to Braille," co-authored by Carol Castellano and Dawn Kosman, is a 191-page resource of solid advice and clear illustrations, including Braille dots in ink demonstrating important concepts and information, and step-by-step instructions on learning to write using the slate and stylus. Published by the National Organization of Parents of Blind Children. Cost: \$12.95. Contact Carol Castellano (201) 377-0976.■

From: The Princeton Braillists

"Atlas of the Middle East," is the latest accomplishment of this group who provide tactile illustrations for the blind. Cost: \$20. The Princeton Braillists also have a number of other publications for sale. For information, call (732) 350-3708.■

From: Mostly Mobility

"Abacus Attack," the newest math game for students who are blind and visually impaired is now available. For ordering information, call (717) 933-5681.■

From: Research Grant Guides, Inc.

Now available, the Directory of Grants for Organizations Serving People with Disabilities (Tenth Edition) profiles 800 foundations so organizations can target foundations that support services for people with disabilities. Cost \$59.40, plus \$6.00 s/h. Call: (561) 795-6129.■

From: Graham Software Company

TalkingKeys Pro v2.0, a text to speech output for Macintosh computers, has been designed from the ground up to be used by blind and sight impaired users. Every command and keystroke can be spoken. It features a word processor, a pronunciation editor and file commands that can all be used by a blind user. Cost: \$89.95 + \$3 s/h. Contact (303) 422-0757.■

From: Ai Squared

ZoomText Xtra, a new generation of adaptive software for Windows 95 and Windows 3.1 that integrates multiple technologies to achieve a total low vision solution has been released. Designed specifically for low vision computer users who need magnification but can also benefit from speech output. Download a free trial version from <http://www.aisquared.com/>. Call (802) 362-3612 for more information.■

From: Margie Donovan

The Department of Veterans Affairs Blind Rehabilitation Services Committee on Reasonable Accommodations has produced a handbook on reasonable accommodations. This handbook provides a succinct overview of the law, examples of requests for reasonable accommodation, a definition of "reasonable," and several case laws. For free copy in large print or ASCII disk, contact Margie Donovan (415) 750-6604.■

From: Judy Hurst

"Talk from the VI Teachers' Lounge," a booklet of teaching ideas for VI teachers, is now available. It contains 52 pages of teacher tips, lesson plans, large print recipes, ideas for starting a braille club, homemade teaching devices, etc. Cost: \$10 plus \$1.50 s/h. Contact Judy Hurst, 400 Cedarstone Drive, Morgantown, WV 26505.■

From: Prevent Blindness America

"Cataracts" and "Glaucoma...The Sneak Thief of Sight" are two large print brochures available from Prevent Blindness America. Cost \$28 per 100, plus shipping. Other publications and videos are available. Contact Laura Cameron at (800) 331-2020.■

From: AFB Press

"Instructional Strategies for Braille Literacy," a handbook which provides instructors with specific strategies and methodologies for teaching braille is now available. Edited by Diane Wormesley, Ph.D., and Frances Mary D'Andrea, M.Ed. Cost: \$38.95 plus \$5 s/h. Call AFB Press at (800) 232-3044.■

From: National Braille Press

General Mills has compiled all their package directions into two braille volumes. Betty Crocker and Gold Medal Product Preparation Directions & Recipes provides step-by-step directions for hundreds of food products, as well as recipes. Two volumes in braille is \$15. Call NBP (800) 548-7323.■

From: National Braille Press

The 10-Minute Guide to Windows 95, includes keyboard commands and screen descriptions for basic Windows 95 operations. This reference guide is available in three volumes in braille for \$13.99. Contact NBP at (800) 548-7323.■

From: Slack, Inc.

The "Low Vision Handbook," a guide on how to deal with patients in the office setting, and "Understanding Vision Deficits," written to provide the necessary information needed to screen, and manage vision problems, are now available from Slack, Inc. Contact Diana Blades at (800) 257-8290 ext. 303.■

From: AER Listserv

"Turning Darkness Into Light" is an inspiring video telling the story of three individuals living with sight loss and about the support group they represent. All three reject the notion they are disabled. Cost: \$19.95 plus tax and s/h. To order, call Penn State Media Sales (800) 770-2111.■

From: Peter Arnold Associates

Kurzweil Educational Systems, Inc. announces the release of the latest version of its Omni 1000 reading system for people who are blind or visually impaired. Available as software only, or as a complete system that includes a Pentium processor, 32 MB of RAM memory hard disk, floppy, and CD-ROM drive, keyboard, a color scanner, synthetic speech, speakers, and a microphone. Prices range from \$1,000 to over \$4,000. Contact KESI at (800) 894-KESI.■

From: Seedlings Braille Books for Children

Now available, the 1998 catalog of low cost braille books for children. Thirty-eight new books have been added including "Disney's My Book of ABC," "Goodnight Moon," "A Gathering of Days," "The Boxcar Children," "Hardy Boys," and "The American Girls Collection." For a free catalog, call (800) 777-8552.■



YESTERDAY'S NEWS

Submitted by: Greg Goodrich

have noted in our records that he had been to most of the leading eye clinics in the country and had seen most prominent men doing eye work. Of course, we explained to him that his type of case was usually not helped by even Telescopic Spectacles. It is indeed a sad commentary upon us, who are engaged in the care of eye-sight and in the improvement in conditions of defective vision to have cases like this passed from one man to another with only slight attention and effort to improve vision. Invariably, those cases that have come to our attention have been seen by a great many men, surgical men in particular, who have been very much interested in pathology but have paid scant attention to the correction and improvement of these cases as far as vision is concerned. We had all we could do to convince Mr. A. that it would be entirely out of form for him to visit the number of men he had seen previously and show them just what he could do in the way of vision now, for he had been told that by the time he was fifty he would be blind, completely blind, without any possibility of restoring vision. Here he was sixty-two years of age with just about enough vision with the Telescopic Spectacles to hope for sufficient sight till the end of his days."

From a case report by Dr. William Feinbloom published in 1931 *Year Book of Optometry* (p.451). Feinbloom was notoriously ahead of his time. In this case presentation, Feinbloom noted the need for good refractions and visual acuity tests, a comprehensive history and setting of patient goals, proper prescription and fitting, and practice with the device including focusing the device and using it in different environments. Feinbloom also did extensive training and his case notes reflect the patient's improvement in measured visual acuity and functional vision that occurred with perceptual learning. ■

President Clinton Joins in the Celebration of "The Year of Specialized Schools"

by Kathleen Megivern



You may remember that in Resolution 96-04, AER joined with the Council of Schools for the Blind (COSB) in declaring 1997 "The Year of Specialized Schools for the Blind and Visually Impaired." Now, in honor of that declaration, a letter from the White House has been received by COSB President Herbert Miller. Dated August 8, 1997, the letter states:

Warm greetings to all those celebrating "The Year of Specialized Schools for the Blind and Visually Impaired," sponsored by the Council of Schools for the Blind.

Our success as a nation depends upon our ability to embrace the creativity and energy of all our people. America's schools for the blind and visually impaired have played a vital role in enabling people throughout the United States to become independent and to make their own vital contributions to our society.

Our nation relies on these specialized schools to supply our students with the knowledge, skills, and confidence to achieve personal and professional fulfillment. I am confident that our schools will continue to build on this record of success and enable future generations to enjoy an equal share in the American Dream.

Best wishes for a memorable celebration.

Bill Clinton

Across the Spectrum



An information exchange focusing on literature
which references blindness or low vision

Journal reference: *The Washington Post, Health Section*,
August 19, 1997

Title of article: "Blind Ambition, Douglas Strobel, 8,
Refuses to Live in a World of His Own" in which AER is
listed as a resource.

Authors: Tina Maisto and David Snider (photographs by
David Snider)

Address of publisher: The Washington Post, 1150 15th
Street, NW, Washington, DC 20071■

Submitted by: Greg Goodrich

Journal reference: *Rehabilitation Psychology*, Vol. 42,
No. 1, 1997, pp. 61-71

Title of article: "Ethnic and Minority Issues in
Rehabilitation Psychology"

Authors: G. Uswatte & T.R. Elliott

Publisher's Address: Springer Publishing Company, Inc.,
536 Broadway, New York, NY 10012■

Submitted by: Greg Goodrich

Journal reference: *Optometry and Vision Science*, Vol. 74,
No. 5, May 1997

Title of article: "National Survey of the Impact of Low
Vision Device Use Among Veterans"

Authors: Gale R. Watson, William de L'Aune, Joan
Stelmack, Joseph Maino, and Sharon Long■

Submitted by: Greg Goodrich

Journal reference: *Ophthalmology*, Vol. 104, No. 4, April
1997

Title of article: "Preferred Retinal Loci Relationship to
Macular Scotomas in a Lowvision Population"

Authors: Donald C. Fletcher, and Ronald A. Schuchard
Reprint requests to: Donald Fletcher, MD, Retina
Consultants of Southwest Florida, 2668 Winkler Avenue,
Fort Myers, FL 33919■

Submitted by: Greg Goodrich

Journal Reference: *Optometry and Vision Science*, Vol. 74,
No. 5, May 1997

Title of Article: "Veterans' Use of Low Vision Devices for
Reading"

Authors: Gale R. Watson, William de L'Aune, Sharon
Long, Joseph Maino, and Joan Stelmack■

Submitted by: Greg Goodrich

Journal reference: *Disability Statistics Abstract*, No. 17,
November 1996

Title of Article: "Trends in Disability Rates in the United
States, 1970-1994"

Authors: H. Stephen Kaye, Mitchell P. LaPlante, Dawn
Carlson, and Barbara L. Wenger

Address of publisher: Disability Statistics Rehabilitation
Research and Training Center, University of California, San
Francisco■

Submitted by: Greg Goodrich

Journal Reference: *Journal of the American Optometric
Association*, Vol. 68, No. 5, May 97, pp. 287-295

Title of Article: "Evaluating the Value of Low-Vision
Services"

Authors: Thomas Raasch, Susan Leat, Robert Kleinstein,
Mark Bullimore and Gary Cutter■

Submitted by: Greg Goodrich

Journal reference: *Journal of the American Optometric
Association*, Vol. 68, No. 8, August 1997

Title of article: "Optometric Management of Patients with
Alzheimer's Disease"

Authors: Donald R. Baker, Mario F. Mendez, John
Townsend, Pauline Ilsen, and David C. Bright■

Submitted by: Greg Goodrich

Journal reference: *Journal of the American Optometric
Association*, Vol. 68, No. 8, August 1997

Title of article: "Causes of Blindness Among Navajo
Indians: An Update"

Authors: David Rearwin, Jubilee H.E. Tang, and James
W. Hughes■

*AER does not have the staff, resources or legal right to
act as a clearing house for the literature listed in this
column. We encourage individuals to submit
references of literature not routinely associated with
the field, but which may be of interest to AER
members. Thank you.*

ATTENTION AER LEADERSHIP: SAVE THESE DATES!!

1998 AER Lift is scheduled for
April 3-5, 1998
at the Ramada Inn in Alexandria, VA

Look for program details in the mail to you soon!

Continued from page 1

The latest Senate summary also indicates that they plan to "beef up" section 508 which requires that the federal government purchase accessible technology.

Just as the House version is part of a larger bill, so too, the Senate plans to add the Rehabilitation provisions to its version of the jobs consolidation. However, if the bill S. 1186 moves to the floor before the Rehabilitation provisions are ready, the strategy may have to change. At any rate, we are continuing to follow Senate actions and will respond appropriately once specific language is available.

Appropriations for Fiscal Year 1998 -- "Deja Vu All Over Again!"

While there seems little likelihood of a governmental shutdown this fall, there is starting to be talk of a "continuing resolution" to keep some government agencies funded into FY 1998 because Congress has yet to complete work on some of the appropriations bills.

And just when we thought all those battles over block grants and abolition of the Department of Education were behind us, along comes the "Gorton Amendment!" Sponsored by Senator Slade Gorton (R, WA), this amendment to the Senate version of the 1998 appropriations bill for the Departments of Labor, HHS and Education, created an \$11 billion block grant which would have gone directly to local educational agencies (LEA's). The money in this block grant would have come from several existing programs such as Title I (for disadvantaged students), Goals 2000, School to Work, Education Technology Challenge Grants and - by the way - 50% of the money appropriated for rehabilitation and disability research programs! Thus, all of these specialized programs would have been devastated in order to write checks directly to LEA's with "no strings attached" and no accountability for the money. The amendment was a last minute ploy by Senator Gorton and a motion to table it failed by a vote of 49 to 51. The amendment then passed on a voice vote and no one was more surprised than Senator Gorton himself!

A "son of Gorton" was talked about on the House side and was being written by Rep. Peter Hoekstra (R, MI). However, it was pulled at the last minute because the Republicans did not have enough votes to pass it. So, *as we go to press*, the conference committee will have to work out the differences between the House and Senate versions of the bill. Senate Democrats have promised to filibuster, if necessary, and

President Clinton has vowed a veto if the final bill contains the Gorton amendment. The President had this to say about the Senate's action:

"The vote by a narrow majority of the US Senate to support the Gorton Amendment undermines the bipartisan spirit of cooperation that is so vital to improving American education. At worse, this decision to block grant education programs is, as Secretary Riley said, a 'back door attempt to kill off the Department of Education.' At best, the vote was a hasty, ill-considered decision that would have a serious impact on our schools. ... Let me be clear. If necessary, I will use my veto power to make sure that no such provision becomes the law of the land."

Stay tuned for the next edition of "As We Go To Press..." ■



SHOW OFF YOUR MEMBERSHIP WITH AER LOGO ITEMS

- ✓ Proudly display the AER logo during conferences, division meetings, and field seminars with a handsome **AER Lapel Pin!**
- ✓ Carry all your school supplies in an **AER Backpack** or organize your papers in an **AER Portfolio!**
- ✓ Commuters and travelers can cart all those "odds and ends" in an **AER Tote Bag!**
- ✓ Make an impression at your next meeting by distributing the meeting materials in glossy **AER Presentation Folders!**
- ✓ And, no office or classroom would be complete without a durable **AER Clipboard!**

For prices and order information on **AER Logo Items**, contact AER at 703/823-9690 or via e-mail at AERNET@LASER.NET

Low Vision Therapist Certification

What Is It and How Do I Get It... Are the two most popular questions around AER headquarters lately. Everyone wants to know what this new certification is all about. Hopefully, this will answer all of those burning questions!

First, AER's Low Vision Therapist is the newest of the professional certifications. It was developed and is overseen by AER's Division 7 - Low Vision. To date, it is also the only AER certification that requires an examination as one of the stipulations of certification. Initial Professional Certification is issued for a period of five years. Upon expiration of the certification, applicants are eligible to apply for Renewable Professional Certification.

Initial Professional Certification may be applied for if an applicant holds a Bachelor's, Master's or Doctoral degree in education, rehabilitation, or health care, or meets the standards of professional practices specific to the country in which services are being provided.

The Interdisciplinary Nature of Low Vision Services:

Low vision services are an integral part of the education and rehabilitation of individuals who have partial sight. In order for these services to be effective and of high quality, it is important for the professional providing the services to be knowledgeable and skilled in low vision service provision, and to adhere to high standards. Professionals will serve as members of interdisciplinary low vision teams to assure that the services are complete as possible.

Low vision service delivery systems should be broadly defined to include any service delivery mechanism in the education and rehabilitation of persons with low vision by instruction of visual skills and/or the use of low vision devices. Service settings include, but are not limited to school systems, university/hospital/rehabilitation centers, nursing homes, and day care centers. Low vision services should be interdisciplinary in nature; that is, services require that more than one professional manage individual cases by dialogue. This interdisciplinary team may include, but is not limited to, an eye care specialist, an education or rehabilitation professional, and a counselor. These professionals will work together in order to assure that a high standard of service is consistently maintained and, to the greatest degree possible, that the unique needs of the individual with low vision be met.

The Application Process:

Individuals interested in achieving the Low Vision Therapist Certification must complete an application, submit one copy of their official college or university transcript indicating a degree in education, rehabilitation, or health care, endorse the Code of Ethics for Low Vision Therapists and the Low Vision Therapist Standards of Professional Behavior, along with the appropriate certification application fee.

Upon receipt of the material above, applicants will receive a registration form, along with the dates and locations, for the Initial Professional Certification examination. (Please note there is a \$25 examination fee.) Upon receiving a passing score on the examination and review by the Low Vision Therapist Certification Committee, the professional certification will be awarded.

Exam Prep:

In preparation for the examination, it is recommended that applicants study AER's Low Vision Code of Ethics, Standards of Professional Behavior, and Low Vision Body of Knowledge, as well as *Understanding Low Vision* by Randy Jose and *Clinical Low Vision* by Eleanor Faye.

Upcoming Examination Dates:

October 18, 1997 -- 2:00 PM
Atlanta VA Medical Center
Decatur, GA

October 25, 1997 -- 10:00 AM
VA Medical Center of Palo Alto
Palo Alto, CA

November 14, 1997 -- 7:30 AM
AER North Central Region Conference
Cleveland, OH

July 1998
(exact date and time to be determined)
AER International Conference
Atlanta, GA

Please note, you must be pre-registered to sit for the examination. Walk ins will not be accepted at any location.

To receive a Low Vision Therapist Certification application, please contact AER at 703/823-9690. For specific questions regarding achieving certification, please ask for Lorna Frazier-Lindsey. ■

AER Teleseminar Series Continues in November

Here's an opportunity to join in on an interactive discussion with your peers on important issues facing professionals in the field today. We've taken three of the *hottest* topics from the 1996 AER International Conference and turned them into one-hour teleseminars, which you can participate in from the comfort of your home, office, or even your car! All you need to participate is a phone and a comfortable place to sit! You will be provided with a toll-free number, so you can call in from anywhere! It's a bargain at \$39 per seminar for AER members and \$59 for non-members.



"Creative Orientation and Mobility: Just Do It!" with Lydia Peterson November 4, 1997 -- 1:00 pm (Eastern Time)

Have you ever taught orientation & mobility in a swimming pool, on a rollercoaster, or in a dance class? Join Lydia Barden Peterson from St. Paul Public Schools (Minnesota) to share creative teaching ideas that are meaningful, unconventional, practical, fun and creative.



"The Development of an Assessment Instrument for Identification and Early Intervention of Infants with Cortical Visual Impairment" with Christine Roman November 6, 1997 -- 1:00 pm (Eastern Time)

This presentation provides results of dissertation research which focuses on the development of a valid and reliable instrument for the assessment of infants with cortical visual impairment. The instrument incorporates the use of parent interview and infant behavior data to identify infants most at risk for cortical visual impairment.



"Career Counseling with Teens and Adults" with Karen Wolffe November 13, 1997 -- 1:00 pm (Eastern Time)

In this presentation, Dr. Wolffe will discuss techniques to facilitate career counseling for teens and adults with visual impairments. She will also introduce participants to the APH Tote, an organizer that includes career education materials designed for high school students.



☐ **Sign Me Up!** I will be attending the following teleseminars scheduled for:

☐ November 4, 1997

☐ November 6, 1997

☐ November 13, 1997

Name: _____ Telephone: _____

Address: _____

City, State/Province, Zip/Postal Code: _____

If there are handouts, which format do you prefer? ☐ Print ☐ Braille ☐ Tape

☐ Enclosed is a check or money order made payable to AER in U.S. funds for \$39 per seminar for AER members/
Non-members - \$59 per seminar

☐ Please charge my ☐ Visa OR ☐ Master Card Acct# _____

Expiration date: _____ Signature: _____

To register: Mail completed form to AER, PO Box 22397, Alexandria, VA 22304
or fax credit card orders to 703/823-9695

All the Fax

Need more information on AER publications? Want to know what's on AER's calendar of events? Need to register for an AER Teleseminar? Or, just want more information on AER membership? Here's where you can get All the Fax! Use the form below to check off the item(s) on which you need more information. Then fill out the name, address, fax, and phone number, and fax (or send) us this page. We'll fax the information requested within 24 hours (or send it via mail where faxes are not available). All of this information is Free! (Please remember that this is an information service only. Please direct any publication purchase questions to 703/823-9690.)

- | | |
|---|---|
| ☐ Membership Application | ☐ AER Report Advertising Policy |
| ☐ Membership Benefits Information | ☐ Purchasing Labels |
| ☐ 1998 AER International Conference | ☐ Upcoming AER Teleseminars |
| ☐ AER Publications & Resources | ☐ AER Calendar of Events |
| ☐ AER Logo Items | ☐ Placing an Ad in AER's <i>Job Exchange</i> |
| ☐ Overview of AER Certification Programs | ☐ Receiving AER's <i>Job Exchange</i> |

After indicating all of the items you wish to receive, please complete the form below and Fax it to (703) 823-9695 or mail it AER, P.O. Box 22397, Alexandria, VA 22304. Please allow 24 hours for processing. (Please type or print)

Name: _____ Date: _____
Fax: _____ Phone: _____
Address: _____
City, State/Province, Zip/Postal Code: _____



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Alexandria, VA 22304

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AER REPORT

Volume 14, No. 6

December 1997

Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired

Website Accessibility Issue

Did you know that the Americans with Disabilities Act's accessibility requirements apply to internet web pages? If you're developing a web site (or if you have one up and running), you'll want to be sure you are in compliance with these important accessibility regulations.

According to the *National Disability Law Report*, Vol. 10, Issue 6, 9/11/97, "Entities subject to title II or III of the ADA must provide effective communication to individuals with disabilities, and covered entities that use the internet to provide information regarding their programs, goods or services must be prepared to offer those communications through accessible means. Such entities may provide web page information in text format that is accessible to screen reading devices that are used by people with visual impairments, and they may also offer alternative accessible formats that are identified in a screen-readable format on a web page." (*Special thanks to Julie Carroll of the American Council of the Blind for sharing this information!*)

As you develop your web site, remember that ADA requires state and local governments and places of public accommodations to furnish appropriate auxiliary aids and services where necessary to ensure effective communication with individuals with disabilities, unless doing so would result in a fundamental alteration to the program or service or an undue burden. If you plan to use the internet to communicate your programs, goods, or services, you must be prepared to communicate these items through accessible means as well.

One way to produce an accessible web site is to include a text format, which is accessible to screen reading devices. Or, you could provide the information contained in your web site in accessible formats such as braille or audio tapes.

For more information on ADA and web site compliance, visit the Department of Justice's ADA home page at www.usdoj.gov/crt/ada/adahomi.htm. Also check out these sites for information about development of accessible web pages: www.gsa.gov/coca/wwwcode.htm or www.trace.wisc.edu/text/guidelns.

Surfs Up at aerbvi.org

Are you ready to "hang ten" on the internet -- AER style? Well, then wax up your keyboard and get ready to do some AER surfin'! Join us January 2, 1998, for the debut of AER Online, the association's web site. It's as simple as logging onto the internet and typing in www.aerbvi.org. That's where you find us -- and all of the latest information regarding your association.

Want to know more about certification? Looking for an AER publication? Need the latest scoop on Capitol Hill or Canadian regulations? Interested in what's happening in your chapter or division? Curious about the International Conference Schedule? All this, and more, will be at your fingertips (literally!) through the AER website.

Accessible in both text-only and graphic formats, the website is AER's newest member benefit, and is designed to be quick, informative and fun! Members will be able to learn more about association benefits and even place orders online, while "visitors" (or potential members) can gain a better understanding about the organization that represents the professionals in the field. Visitors can even join AER online!

AER's Chair of the Publications Committee, Marshall Flax (Madison, WI), Treasurer, David Ekin (Webster Groves, MO), and Past-President, Barbara McCarthy (Richmond, VA) assisted in developing the site. They agree that, with its debut, AER has made great strides towards achieving our goals of serving as a pre-eminent information resource for professionals in the field and using technology to improve programs and services, as well as providing immediate availability and accessibility of our materials. Please stop by, visit the site, and let us know what you think. ■

January 2, 1998 ♦ www.aerbvi.org ♦ Be there!

Inside This Issue:

- * Financial Aid for Students Available Through AER
- * What's the Meaning of this Listserv?
- * How Will You Spend YOUR Summer Vacation?
- * RE:sources, Across the Spectrum, and more!

Mission: To develop and promote professional excellence through support of those who provide services to people with visual impairments.

From the President

Choices, Challenges and Change...

By the time you read this column, we will all be entrenched in the activities that the holidays bring -- family gatherings, gift exchanges, and wonderful food! On behalf of the AER Board of Director and the AER staff, I wish all of you a happy and healthy holiday season and a prosperous New Year.

The last few months of AER activities can be summed up in three words: Choices, Challenges & Change. The Search Committee, under the wise and skilled leadership of Dr. Rick Welsh, interviewed five extremely capable candidates for our executive director position. After much discussion, the committee decided to offer two names to the Board of Directors at its December meeting. The Board will have a chance to interview the two finalists and, hopefully, a decision will be made in early December. If that is the case, we will announce the name of our new executive director in January.

While change is imminent (and positive!) the Board recognizes the impact and challenges that the forthcoming dues increase will have on our organization. The Finance Committee and the Board of Directors were unanimous in the decision to raise dues to the \$110 level for regular members. We discussed the issue at length with Chapter Presidents and Division Chairs during the 1997 AER-Lift in St. Louis last May, where, again, there was strong agreement to support the increase. AER is offering many new benefits to its members including JVIB and a new web site. We want to further upgrade our activities in several areas including increased advocacy on professional issues in Washington. We also hope to improve services to our Canadian members.

On page 3 of this issue of AER Report, you will find a chart on how AER funds are spent. As you can see, the majority of funds are spent on member activities and professional development, which include certification, the international conferences, and publications and resources. AER, the only organization that represents professionals who provide services to the blind and visual impaired, has not realized a dues increase in over eight years. With the rising cost of doing business (i.e. postage, printing, supplies, equipment, etc.), this increase was destined to occur. If we are to move forward, and take an active role in legislation, advocacy, and professional development, then we must support our organization with the financial backing it requires.

Another way to support AER and impact change is to become active in the leadership of our organization. In December, you will be receiving information about nominations for President-elect, Secretary, and Treasurer of AER. Please consider being nominated by a colleague or by nominating yourself. If you want to direct the future of AER, run for an office! If you are unhappy with the direction or initiatives that this Board has taken, run for an AER office! Finally, if you are a committed professional who is a visionary and wants to effect change, run for an AER office! It's your choice to take on the challenge to accomplish change. ■

Sharon Zell Sacks

AER Report is published six times a year as a membership service. Chapters, divisions, and individual members are encouraged to submit items of interest for publication to:

Lorna Frazier-Lindsey
Editor

AER Report

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Alexandria, VA 22304

Phone: 703/823-9690

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e-mail: aernet@laser.net

www.aerbvi.org

AER does not review or evaluate the literature or products listed in its newsletter. A listing, therefore, does not suggest AER endorsement. The views expressed herein represent those of the author(s) and not necessarily those of AER, its Board of Directors, staff or the editor. **AER Report** provides for the publication of materials that may represent divergent ideas, judgments, and opinions.

AER 1997 Board of Directors

President: Sharon Zell Sacks

President-elect: Peggy Madera

Treasurer: David Ekin

Immediate Past President: Barbara McCarthy

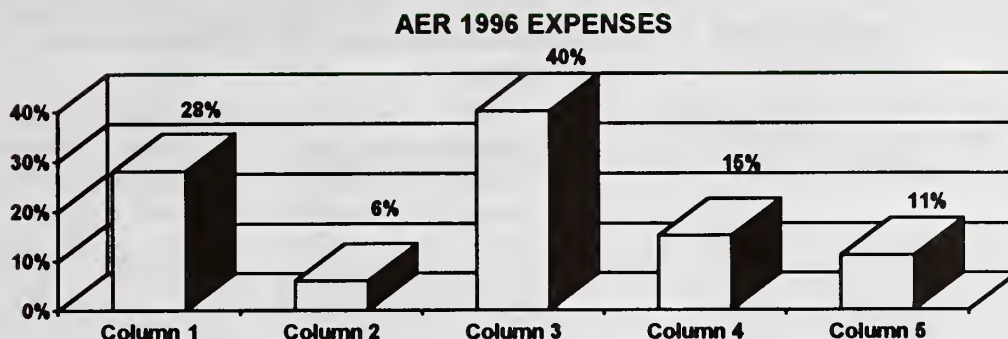
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Wendy David	Jim Pietrzycki
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Lorna Frazier-Lindsey, Member Programs and Services Coordinator/Editor
Kim Gettings, Manager of Membership Records
Carolyn Sharp, Receptionist
Xiaoming Zhang, CPA, Accountant
Susan Osborn, Part-time Staff Assistant



WHERE DO THOSE DUES DOLLARS GO?



Column 1 = Professional Development 28%
Column 2 = Public Education/Advocacy/Liaison 6%
Column 3 = Member Activities 40%
Column 4 = Management & General 15%
Column 5 = Governance 11%

Professional development expenses include the International Conference and continuing education programs. Public Education/Advocacy/Liaison costs include lobbying efforts and collaborative efforts with other organizations. Division and chapter support, publications, certification, and the likes are included in the 40% breakdown classified as Member Activities. Management and General expenses include the office and staff. Governance includes board travel, board meeting expenses and committee activities. For the actual amount of dollars expended on each, please refer to the 1996 Annual Report, which was included in the August 1997 issue of **AER Report**. ■



Financial Aid for Students Available Through AER

by Dr. Karen Ross, Chair, AER Scholarship Committee

It's been said time and again that education is the cornerstone of success. Today, with the exorbitant cost of higher education, it's becoming increasingly difficult to reach that cornerstone. In an effort to somewhat ease the burden of college tuitions, and to increase the number of well-trained professionals in the field, AER is pleased to offer two scholarship opportunities.

The first is the **William and Dorothy Ferrell Scholarship**, which awards \$500 to two selected applicants who are legally blind (visual acuity of 20/200 or less in the best corrected eye and/or a visual field of 20 degrees or less) and are studying at the post secondary level for a career in the field of services to people who are blind or visually impaired.

The second is the **Telesensory Scholarship**, which awards \$1,000 to one selected applicant who is a current member of AER and is studying for a career in the field of services to persons who are blind or visually impaired.

To be considered for the 1998 scholarship awards, applicants must submit a completed application to the AER central office by April 15, 1998. The scholarships will be awarded in conjunction with AER's Biennial International Conference, scheduled for July 8-12, 1998, in Atlanta, Georgia. To receive an application, call, write, or e-mail your request to Carolyn Sharp in AER's central office. ■





Division Docket

News snippets from
AER Divisions

(Divisions are welcome - and
encouraged - to submit brief,
newsworthy items!)

Division 2 – Vocational Rehabilitation Counseling & Employment Services

Division 2 is looking for a few good folks to serve as officers for the next biennium. Nominations are being accepted for President-elect, Secretary and Treasurer. Interested parties should contact Gary Everhart at (512) 459-2544; (512) 928-2059; or JjGweCfe@aol.com. ■

Division 9 - Orientation & Mobility

The Division 9 Research and Publications Review Committee is pleased to announce the publication and dissemination of "The Family of Owen M: Off We Go To Learn Everyday Things About Orientation and Mobility," by Erin Flaherty, Allison Hawkins and Stephanie Heaton. This book is the latest addition to a group of publications being offered through AER and the first to be disseminated through the newly formed Division 9 Hill Publications.

Division 9 Hill Publications was founded in honor of Butch Hill, who, among so many other things, was instrumental in establishing a committee and system for Division 9 to take a role in publishing outstanding works by AER members. Division 9 Hill Publications are supported by contributions made by the Hill Memorial Fund.

"The Family of Owen M" is a delightfully illustrated text about Owen and his family (including his dog, Bingo) as they explore and enjoy Owen's everyday activities around his home and neighborhood. Through the story of Owen's activities, sighted guide, protective techniques, and sensory and environmental tips for children who are blind or visually impaired are described. This book will be helpful for parents, family members, friends, teachers, O&M specialists...and a must for all who love O&M. Owen and the other Division 9 publications can be purchased through the national AER office. ■

Division 17 – Personnel Preparation

CEC, AER's Division 17, and AFB wrote a grant that was funded through OSEP, entitled "Developing a Plan for Training Personnel to Serve Children with Blindness and Low Vision." The two-year, \$300,000 grant will result in the completion of a strategic plan for preparing capable and qualified personnel to educate students who are blind or

have low vision. These personnel include O&M specialists, VI teachers, and teachers of deaf/blind children. For more information, contact Dr. Roseanna Davidson at (806) 742-2320. ■

AER's Division 17 is seeking nominations for chairperson-elect and secretary-treasurer. If you are interested or would like to nominate someone, please contact the Nomination Committee Chairperson, Dr. Carol Love, University of Northern Colorado, Division of Special Education, Greeley, CO 80639, (970) 351-2691, cylove@bentley.unco.edu. The nominee must be a current member of Division 17. The past presidents have included George Zimmerman, Cay Holbrook, Anne Corn, Susan Spungin, Majorie Ward, and William Graves, just to name a few. ■

I Am Certified

by Barbara Hunt, Chair of Division 11

(reprinted with permission from The RT News, the newsletter of Division 11 - Rehabilitation Teaching & Independent Living Services)

For almost 20 years I have worked as a Rehabilitation Teacher for the Department of Veteran Affairs. In the VA, certification for Blind Rehabilitation Specialists is not required. It has, therefore, been common practice for many RT's to ignore certification. Fortunately, a few of us have taken steps to become Certified Rehabilitation Teachers.

Working in a rehab facility attached to a hospital, we are surrounded by all types of initials for licensure and certification: MD, OTR, RN, PhD, EdD, ACSW, LSW, and on and on. Until recently, I never felt a need to fixate on titles; however, as agencies downsize, right size, whatever size, I have grown to realize the importance of what titles represent.

I am proud to be a Certified Rehabilitation Teacher, and I am proud when someone in the medical field reviews my progress note or memo and asks what does CRT mean? It is my chance to share the excitement and the success of our field. I hope you have the same feelings. Share those feelings with others. Let's get certified!

[Editor's note: For information on certification or to receive an application and instruction booklet for any of AER certification programs, please contact the AER office at 703/823-9690; fax 703/823-9695; or e-mail aernet@laser.net.] ■



AER is Pleased to Announce...

The 2nd Biennial MacFarland Stipend Awards

The MacFarland Stipend Fund, in memory of the late Douglas MacFarland, former Director of the U.S. Office for the Blind and Visually Impaired, was established for the purpose of promoting professional growth and development by providing financial assistance to AER members who wish to attend the International Conference. In 1998, there will be ten MacFarland Stipends of \$250 each, awarded to AER members who will be traveling "On the Road to Excellence" to attend the 8th Biennial AER International Conference in Atlanta, Georgia, July 8-12.

Who is eligible for these stipends?

- ⇒ Any individual who is a current member of AER is eligible to apply for a MacFarland Stipend.

What are the factors to be considered in selecting the Stipend Award recipients?

- ⇒ While not absolute, preference will be given to "first time attendees" at an AER International Conference.
- ⇒ The financial need of applicants will be considered, along with the total projected cost of their attendance and other available sources of financial support.
- ⇒ The committee will also consider how the individual plans to share the information gained as a result of attending the AER International Conference.

How do I apply for a Stipend Award?

- ⇒ Simply contact AER to request a MacFarland Stipend Application form by calling 703/823-9690, faxing a request to 703/823-9695, or sending an e-mail to aernet@laser.net. ■

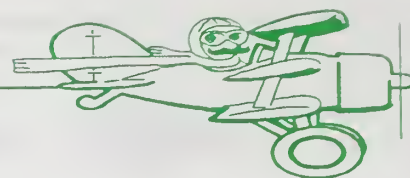
Special Thanks!

A very special thank you goes out to the following members for their generous contribution to AER's MacFarland Stipend Fund, Lowenfeld Publications Fund, and General Operating Fund:

- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| ★ James Brisnehan (CO) | ★ Ellen Day (TX) |
| ★ Elizabeth Haag (OH) | ★ Ken Kalina (AZ) |
| ★ Kristine Lincoln (MA) | ★ Darlene Mullet (TX) |
| ★ Garry Patriquin (PA) | ★ Michael Pitroff (OH) |
| ★ Evelyn Riggan (OR) | ★ Susan Stager (MA) |

Thank you for helping us to support those who provide services to people with visual impairments. ■

Welcome New Members!



Judy Ackermann (OH)
Karin Alberga (NY)
Paula Anderson (IL)
Suzanna Anderson (OR)
Becky Andrews (UT)
S. Anthony (WI)
Judy Arday (CA)
Melanie Austin (UT)
Keefe Bangert (MA)
Ken Bankston (FL)
April Barnes (FL)
Cindy Barr-McNair (NE)
Debrah Benjamin (NY)
Lee Berdinski (AL)
Ingrid Bimbo (NC)
Valerie Brandow (NY)
Paula Bress (MA)
Katrina Brooks (IL)
Shari Brown (AZ)
Wendi Buck (NY)
Michael Byington (KS)
James Campbell (FL)
Deb Case (OH)
Don Coltrane (FL)
Sheila Compton (SC)
DeEtte Conner (OR)
Judith Cornelius (OH)
Elizabeth Daniel (IL)
Kari Deconinck (IL)
Kate Dilworth (OR)
Deon Dodson (AZ)
Mary Drew (SC)
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Sharon Hammer (CA)
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Sheila Homesley (CA)
Tana Hopper (AR)
Maxine Hulsing (CA)
Jennifer Hur (CA)
Sengil Inkiala (MA)
Cynthia Jackson-Glenn (PA)
Donna Jenkins (IL)
Don Jennings (MS)
Meredith Johnson (AR)
Rachel Jones (AZ)
Al Kaufman (MI)
Mark Kinnison (OK)
Roberta Kitlinski (IL)
Jennifer Kruse (IL)
Joan Lentz (AR)
Christina Leonard (KY)
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Linda Lyle (NM)
Jacqueline Martino (MA)
Kathryn McGarry (NY)
Nancy McKenzie (WV)
Donald Mitchell (WA)
DeVonne Mitchener (NC)
Jeanna Mora (AZ)
Kate Morris (Ontario)
Michele Morton (FL)
Maureen Motley (NY)
Sue Mussatt (MO)
Patricia Newsom (AZ)
Catherine O'Farrell (WY)
Michaeline Ondich (CA)
Samuel Paradise (NY)

Linda Parker (OK)
Loria Powell (MS)
Nancy Radatz (OK)
Padma Rajagopal (MA)
Joanne Reed (MI)
Kimberly Rigdon (FL)
Teri Ritchie (WI)
Krista Ritter (FL)
Kathryn Roeser (CA)
Jill Rosenfeld (NY)
John Ryan (FL)
Shirley Sato (HI)
Carol Schaufel-Romero (WI)
Paul Scher (IL)
Randi Smith (WA)
Christine Snellman (PA)
Paula Sprecher (IL)
Deanne Stanton (WA)
Christina Stapleton (IL)
Marisol Stigers (CA)
Kathy Stumpfing (MI)
Lisa Swink (NC)
Renee Tinsley (IN)
Helena Travis (NM)
Nicholle Trepanier-Durkee (MN)
Jacqueline Trigg (FL)
Susan Turiciano (IL)
Lisa Van Dyke (CA)
Lisa VanWert (PA)
Mark Vrbka (CA)
Gloria Wood (TX)
Qi Yu (MI)
Linda Zimmerman (CA) ■





What's the Meaning of this Listserv?

by Dona Sauerburger

Listservs have changed my life! While working, I often think, "There must be a better way to handle this situation -- I'll ask the folks on one of the listservs for some ideas," or "This new technique worked really well! I'll tell the listserv about it." Later, I send an e-mail message to the listserv, which distributes it to hundreds of people who send their replies to the list serve or to me privately. To subscribe, all you need is access to e-mail, and the only cost is the risk of becoming addicted!

AER offers a fantastic listserv, "AERNET," for those of us who work with people who are visually impaired. I asked members why they subscribe to AERNET. Several people who work alone or in itinerant positions, as I do, said that AERNET saved them from being isolated. Julie Dawson, from New Jersey, says that in addition to helping her "keep abreast of current trends, teaching techniques, resources, exchanges of ideas, and legislative updates," AERNET offers "caring support from others to replenish myself." It is also international! Ulmer Yael, from Israel, told the listserv "I am swallowing each word of all of you, saving most of the issues, translating a lot of them to my [colleagues]."

Several people agreed with Carol Levy, from Tennessee, that "being on this listserv is like being in a huge teacher's lounge filled with aware, concerned, vision teachers. I read my messages for information, but also for the support of others who understand my needs and those of my students." Billy Brookshire, from Texas, is "continually amazed at how quickly people respond and at how good their information is" even about a unique topic such as body language. He says the fact that many of the respondents are blind and visually impaired "helps me stay grounded."

People reported that the listserv was also a good source of information about jobs, and a good way to get to know colleagues from other areas and countries. I noticed that

many people who met through listservs make plans to meet each other in person at conferences.

Sandi Postle, from Illinois, offers her "Top ten reasons why I like listservs..."

10. It's like taking a class without the tests.
9. It's like visiting colleagues without paying airfare.
8. It's cheap.
7. It beats watching TV all night.
6. I probably wouldn't get e-mail without it.
5. It keeps my printer humming.
4. It keeps my files full of great ideas and solutions.
3. I'm up-to-date on legislative issues.
2. I've made great new friends.
1. Most of all - I learn a lot in a really fun manner! And, you can, too!

It's easy to subscribe to the listserv, and there are many from which to choose!

To subscribe to the AER listserv:

1. Send a message to: maiser@fs1.sched.pitt.edu
2. In the subject line, type: AERNET
3. Your message should read: subscribe AERNET

To subscribe to the O&M listserv:

1. Send a message to: listserv@msu.edu
2. Your message should read: subscribe OANDM <your first name> <your last name>

To subscribe to the RT listserv:

1. Send a message to: listserv@umbusky.cc.umb.edu
2. Your message should read: subscribe rt-1 <your first name> <your last name>

To subscribe to the deaf-blind listserv:

1. Send a message to: listserv@tr.wou.edu
2. Your message should read: subscribe deafblind firstname lastname (Editor's note: no "i" in deafblind)

Join as many as you wish! There's no easier way to keep in touch with your peers from the comfort of your own home or office! ■

AWARD NOMINATIONS REMINDER!!!

Nominations for the Mary K. Bauman Award, Ambrose M. Shotwell Award, Alfred Allen Award, John H. McAulay Award, C. Warren Bledsoe Award, and Outstanding Chapter Award must be received by AER no later than February 1, 1998. For a nomination form, please contact AER's Carolyn Sharp at 703/823-9690, fax 703/823-9695, or e-mail aernet@laser.net. ■



How Will You Spend YOUR Summer Vacation?

Taking the family on a trip to one of the exciting cities in the U.S.? Catching up on the latest research in the field? Attending enlightening education programs? Spending time with friends? Well, you can do all this, and more, by attending AER's International Conference in Atlanta, Georgia, July 8-12, 1998, where "On the Road to Excellence, Teamwork Marks the Way."

The conference program is shaping up, and promises to include something for everyone. Whether your interests are in rehabilitation or education, orientation and mobility or administration, technology or veteran affairs, or a combination of these, the Divisions' Conference Committees have selected a plethora of workshops, research papers and poster presentations that will take you down the road to new ideas, bring you up to speed on the latest research studies, and leave you with your spirits rejuvenated. Add in the knowledge you will gain from the exhibitors, and the association news you will glean, and the outcome will be one of the best summer vacations you could ever take!

So, plan on attending the 8th Biennial AER International Conference in Atlanta. A full conference packet, including registration form and rates, will be sent to all members in January. Look for it in your mail soon! ■



Mark Your Calendars!

January 30, 1998 – Alternative Instructional Strategies for Teaching Braille, 8:30 to 3:30, Washington State School for the Blind, Vancouver, WA. Features Dr. Cay Holbrook and is presented by the Pacific Northwest AER and Washington State School for the Blind. AER Members \$20; non-members \$35. Call 360-696-6321. ■

February 26-27, 1998 – 1998 Illinois Vision Conference, Holiday Inn, Naperville, IL. This year's conference theme is "Color My World." For more information on registration, contact Sandi Dorst at 708-957-7025 ■

March 5-8, 1998 – 1998 Josephine L. Taylor Leadership Institute, Washington Marriott, Washington, DC. Contact Corinne Kirchner, AFB, 212-502-7640. ■

March 12-13, 1998 – DC-Maryland AER Annual Chapter Meeting, Ocean City, Maryland. Contact Program Chair Jenny Westman at 202-667-4402 for more information. ■

March 13-14, 1998 – The Low Vision Perspective, with Drs. Anne Corn and Audrey Smith. Presented by the Pacific Northwest AER and the Washington School for the Blind. Call 360-696-6321. ■

April 3-5, 1998 – AER Lift (AER's leadership conference), Alexandria, VA. Details available in January 1998. ■

April 26 - May 8, 1998 – Touchable Treasures in Northern Italy. Touch tour will visit Milan, Lake Como, Florence, the Alps, and more. For information, contact Companian Enterprises, PO Box 167, Oxford, OH 45056, 512-524-4846. ■

July 8-12, 1998 – AER 8th Biennial International Conference, Hyatt Regency Atlanta, Atlanta, GA. Schedule and registration form to be mailed in January 1998. ■

August 21-23, 1998 – Visions '98: The Gift of Sight, The Foundation Fighting Blindness Conference, Palmer House Hilton, Chicago, IL. For information call 888-394-3937. ■

1998 Dates for O&M Seminars Announced by Leader Dogs for the Blind

In 1998, Leader Dogs for the Blind will be offering 3 day seminars. The seminars will cover a variety of methods the Orientation & Mobility practitioner can use when working with the guide dog user. Upon completion of the seminar, CEU credits are available from Western Michigan University.

Sessions will cover: Orientation of the guide dog client to new environments, observation and intervention techniques, and hands on blind-fold work in a variety of environments with a guide dog. Also, discussion on methods to prepare students that may wish to get a guide dog will take place.

All seminars will begin on a Thursday at 11:00 a.m. and end on a Saturday around 12:00 p.m. Leader Dog will reimburse those who fly \$200 or pay mileage up to \$100. The school will also provide all meals and lodging in our dormitory. Available dates for 1998 are: May 28-30, June 25-27, September 17-19, and October 15-17.

For more information, contact: Rod Haneline, Leader Dogs for the Blind, P.O. Box 5000, Rochester, MI 48308, 888-777-5332, LDFTB@ix.netcom.com ■





AER Member Notes...

Three cheers for AER Member **June Morris** (Louisville, KY), retired executive vice president of the American Printing House for the Blind, on receiving the Wings of Freedom Award during APH's annual meeting in October. She was recognized for her outstanding achievements, which included research on "learning through listening," organization of the Kentucky chapter of AER, and the establishment of Visually Impaired Preschool Services of Louisville. ■

Congratulations to the **Hadley School for the Blind** (Winnetka, IL), an AER corporate member, whose new course catalog received Distinguished Honor Award from the University Continuing Education Association's Division of Independent Study. ■

Hats off to AER member **Barbara Davis** (North Grafton, MA) on her appointment as Director of Client Services at Boston Aid to the Blind. ■

Wedding bells are ringing for two AER members! Best wishes to **David Loux** and **Karyl Moore** (Morristown, NJ) on their October nuptials. ■

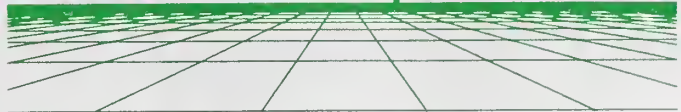
At its 52nd convention in Reno, Nevada, the Blinded Veterans Association presented awards to numerous outstanding individuals, many of whom are also AER members. Congratulations to **Gerard McDonnell** (Garden City, NY) on receiving BVA's Irving Diener Award, and **Robert Damon** (Battle Creek, MI) and **Kathleen Fraser** (San Antonio, TX) on receiving BVA Certificates of Appreciation. ■

Kudos to AER Board Member, **Mary Nelle McLennan** (Louisville, KY), on receiving the AER North Central Regional "Hall of Fame" award! ■

During its Memorial Awards Banquet, AER's Ohio Chapter bestowed the Educator of the Year honor upon **Debra Mino** (Grove City, OH). Debbie is an Orientation and Mobility Instructor with Leawood Elementary School in Columbus and has served as Division 9 Chair for Ohio. She is also a recipient of the Rob Mills Award. ■

Welcome to AER's newest staff member, **Susan Osborn**, who has joined our team as part-time staff assistant. ■

Across the Spectrum



An information exchange focusing on literature which references blindness or low vision

Submitted by: AER Listserv

Journal Reference: *The Washington Post*, Sept. 15, 1997

Article: "Science Notebook: Neurology Brain Reorganization in the Blind"

Author: Rob Stein

Reprint requests to: The Washington Post, 1150 15th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20071 ■

Journal Reference: *Association Management*, Oct. 1997, *Jobsights*, pp. 120

Article: "Teaching Partnership" (Photographs and brief article highlighting The Seeing Eye, Morristown, NJ.)

Reprint requests to: ASAE, Association Management, 1575 I Street, NW, Washington, DC 20005-1168 ■

Submitted by: Greg Goodrich

Journal Reference: *International Journal of Rehabilitation and Health*, Vol. 3, No. 2, 1997, pp. 119-130

Article: "Adaptation to Loss of A Disability: A Case Study on Gaining Sight"

Authors: Jay R. Stewart and Michael Buczek

Reprint requests to: Plenum Publishing Company ■

Journal Reference: *Secure Retirement*, Nov./Dec. '97, pp. 14

Article: "An "Aye" for an Eye, the National Eye Care Project helps eligible seniors and their grandchildren avoid vision-threatening diseases"

Reprint requests to: National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare, 10 G Street, NE, Suite 500, Washington, DC 20002-4215 ■

Submitted by: Greg Goodrich

Journal Reference: *Journal of Low Vision and Neuro-Optometric Rehabilitation*, Volume 11, No. 2, pp. 12-20

Article: "Optometric Care for the Multihandicapped Child"

Author: Ian L. Bailey ■

Journal Reference: *Popular Mechanics*, Dec. 1997, Vol. 174, No. 12, pp 60

Article: "Electronic Eyes"

Author: Tobey Grumet

Reprint requests to: Popular Mechanics, PO Box 7170, Red Oak, IA 51591 ■





RE:sources

From: AER Listserv

The West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and Blind will be developing a short term placement program at the school, and are interested in successful programs at other schools that provide short term placement and evaluations for students who are deaf, hard of hearing, blind, partially sighted, deaf/blind and/or multi-handicapped. Would like to send a team of two persons to your school if your program is similar or seems like it would fit our needs. Please contact Dan Oates e-mail: doates@access.mountain.net, phone 304-822-4883. ■

From: Vision Technology

Reading and writing is as easy as 1-2-3, with the MousCam 500 Color System by Vision Technology. The MousCam 500 Video Magnification System, introduced as the first color hand-held video magnifier in March 1997, provides brilliant color or enhanced black and white images. The MousCam 500 helps individuals with low vision view photos, read recipes and ingredient labels, write letters, sign checks, and more. Contact Vision Technology 800-560-7226 ■

From: AER listserv

AWARE, a not-for-profit organization conducting teacher training and workshops for personnel serving visually impaired adults, is in the process of preparing a new book. Anyone interested in pilot-testing a publication on "Adapting Crafts for Adults with Visual Impairments" should contact Anne Yeadon at AWAREUSA@aol.com. Interested persons should be teaching crafts on a regular basis to adults with visual impairments, and be willing to give editors constructive and thorough professional critique. Recommendations for craft resources for inclusion in this upcoming publication would be most welcome. Also, any suggestions for developing other "how-to" publications which are not readily available in the field, would also be well received. ■

From: AER listserv

The Hadley School for the Blind offers free correspondence courses to visually impaired persons and their families. Information may be obtained from their web page: www.hadley-school.org. ■

From: The Seeing Eye, Inc.

An updated, second edition of *Love in the Lead*, by Peter Putnam, was released in September 1997. This work tells the story of a groundbreaking trio who changed society's perception of blindness, its treatment of blind people, and ultimately, society's attitude toward and legal protection of all people with disabilities, who also went on to establish The

Seeing Eye. Paperback copies are \$10 plus \$6.95 shipping and handling. For information, call 973-539-4425 or www.seeingeye.org. ■

From: Recording for the Blind and Dyslexic

RFB&D is sponsoring two academic scholarship program. The Mary P. Oenslager Scholastic Achievement Awards are given annually to legally blind college seniors. Three winners receive \$6,000 each, 3 special honors receive \$3,000 each, and 3 honors winners receive \$1,000 each. The Marion Huber Learning Through Listening Awards are presented to high school seniors who have specific learning disabilities. These awards are presented to a total of six students in 2 categories. Three winners receive \$6,000 each and 3 special honors receive \$2,000 each. For more information and awards criteria contact RFB&D's scholarship programs at 800-221-4792. Application deadline 2/1/98. ■

From: The Lighthouse, Inc.

The Lighthouse, Inc. has just issued its new fall catalog containing 65 new products that make it easier for people with partial sight to handle daily activities at home, in school and at work. The items' universal design features make them useful and accessible to everyone. Catalogs may be ordered by calling 800-829-0500. ■

From: Eschenbach

Eschenbach introduces an innovative series of frameless aspheric hand-held magnifiers. Light enough to be held for extended periods of time, the Slim-Line magnifiers allow for comfortable binocular use - even at powers as high as 14 dipters! The unique frameless edge acts like a typoscope to aid with reading. For more information call Eschenbach Optik of America, Inc. 203-438-7471. ■

From: Royal National Institute for the Blind

RNIB has produced a pilot edition of "Equipment for Blind and Partially Sighted Persons: An International Guide." This book lists devices known to be commercially available; it does not attempt to make any recommendations as to which ones are best. Single copies are available free of charge in print only. The purpose of this pilot edition is to identify which devices have been missed. Contact Dr. John Gill, at +44 171 388 7747 (London) or e-mail jgill@rnib.org.uk. ■

From: OnTarget Marketing

OnTarget Marketing is pleased to announce the introduction of TALKS (Total Access Linking Kiosk System) a new way for visually impaired individuals to "surf the web" and truly experience the information benefits the World Wide Web provides. Without any additional hardware or expensive line readers, visually impaired people can access information from the web with the assistance of FREE downloadable programs that TALKS allows. Learn more by visiting OnTarget Marketing's web site at www.ontargetmkt.com or call 602-667-0775. ■



From: AER listserv

Jbliss Imaging Systems announces two new products designed to make reading printed and electronic documents as easy and fast as possible for user's with visual impairments. ezVIP is a print document reading program for people who have low vision or are totally blind. The product includes Xerox Textbridge OCR and AT&T Flextalk synthetic speech. VIPinfoNet is an internet browser for people with visual impairments. Text from web pages is converted into visual and speech displays which can be customized to the user's needs. For more information, contact Jbliss Imaging Systems at 888-452-5477. ■

From: Telesensory

Telesensory announces the release of PowerReader™ Assistant, a new reading device for the blind. Designed so that a blind person, even someone with no computer skills, can pick up a book, scan it, and listen to the text with the touch of a single button. For details, contact Telesensory at 800-286-8484. ■

From: Twin Peaks Press

The 1997 edition of a one-of-a-kind guide, "Directory of Travel Agencies for the Disabled," has just been published by Twin Peaks Press, along with "Travel for the Disabled (A Handbook of Travel Resources and 500 Worldwide Access Guides)." Both are authored by Helen Hecker. For information call 360-694-2462. ■

From: Jason & Nordic Publishers

Turtle Books offers easy-to-read books that talk honestly about what it's like to be a child with a disability. Colorful illustrations and simple, beautiful stories offer insights in dealing with children who have physical and mental disabilities. There are 11 books in the series, each telling a story of a young child with physical, mental, and language impairment. Contact 814-696-2920 for information. ■

From: Center for Policy Research

The Center for Policy Research on the Impact of General and Special Education Reform has available their latest research products, an issue brief entitled "State Accountability Systems and Students with Disabilities," and a policy updated entitled "Students with Disabilities and High School Graduation Policies." The Center was established by the National Association of State Boards of Education, Institute for the Study of Exceptional Children and Youth, and the Consortium for Policy Research in Education. For a copy, contact the National Association of State Boards of Education at 703-684-4000. ■

From: AER listserv

Dancing Dots Braille Music Technology is pleased to announce the release of the GOODFEEL Braille Music Translator. GOODFEEL promotes literacy for the blind musician by automating the transcription of Braille scores. For more information, visit Dancing Dot's web site at www.netaxs.com/~ddots or call 610-352-7607. ■

From: American Foundation for the Blind

The AFB has developed a new brochure on the critical importance of preserving specialized services. Written with legislators and the public in mind, "Every Seven Minutes..." is intended for use in advocacy efforts by individuals and organizations who provide specialized services to visually impaired people. For a free copy, or bulk-order pricing, contact AFB at 800-232-5463 or afbinfo@afb.org. Also available is the "1997-98 Guide to Toys for Children Who Are Blind or Visually Impaired." Produced by AFB and the Toy Manufacturers of America, this successful guide is in its fifth edition. Contact AFB or TMA (212-633-1429) for details. ■

Redesigned U.S. Currency Features Special Design to Help Those with Low Vision

AER, along with other national organizations, is cooperating with the U.S. Treasury to raise awareness about recent changes in the design of the \$50 bill. Based on recommendations from the National Academy of Sciences, the U.S. Government is redesigning U.S. currency to make it easier to read and to reduce the chances of counterfeiting.

The new \$50 was introduced in October, and the redesigned \$20 note is scheduled for release in 1998. For the first time, these notes will incorporate a new feature -- a large, dark numeral on a light background -- making the bill easier to identify and more accessible to people with visual impairments. The low vision feature will become standard in design of future denominations of U.S. currency and will not result in any devaluation or recall.

For more information on the new note, use Treasury's interactive fax at (202) 622-2040 (for an index, request document #1745) or on the Treasury's web site at www.ustreas.gov. ■



Very Best Wishes To You And Yours For A

Safe And Happy Holiday Season

Carolyn Sharp

Kathy Megivern

Susan Osborn



Linoming Zhang

Kimberly Gitting

Lorna Grajer Lindsey

From the staff of AER!



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AER REPORT

Volume 15, No. 2

April 1998



Kathleen Megivern

A Tribute to Kathleen Megivern

by Michael Bina and Richard Welsh

In writing this tribute to Kathy Megivern who has resigned from the position of Executive Director of AER after 17 years of service to the organization and its predecessors AAWB, AEVH and the Alliance, we asked numerous people to describe Kathy Megivern restricting them to only one word -- a most difficult, if not impossible task.

What we found was that Kathy's colleagues went to extremes when describing her. Regardless of the one positive characteristic that they selected as descriptive of Kathy Megivern, they all attributed to her the extreme degree of that characteristic, even though that usually required two words. They saw her as "extremely helpful," as

"extremely friendly," as "extremely loyal," as "extremely knowledgeable," and as "extremely effective." This was extremely interesting.

Could one person actually reflect the "nth degree" of each of these positive virtues? Or were we witnessing a common response style? We would have been suspicious except for the fact that each of these superlative descriptions of Kathy rang true with our experience of her and the job that she did as the executive leader of our association.

What would AER be today without Kathy and her far-reaching, positive influence? Given that AER was a fledgling hybrid in 1982 from AAWB and AEVH stock, it was absolutely imperative that the new Executive Director was someone who could guide, nurture, protect, and lead. AER, if it was to survive outside the Alliance incubator, needed someone who would carry it, who skillfully and simultaneously could juggle 47 things while walking on eggshells and hot coals. Knowing Kathy's humility, quick smile and ever-present sense of humor, she would likely exclaim after reading that last sentence, "It was a challenge, certainly, but I wouldn't say it was THAT bad!"

Kathy carried AER with grace, patience, sensitivity, and with determined purpose, always outside the recognition spotlight. In looking back, Kathy was the perfect AER Director for this critical period. She facilitated AER's evolution as a membership organization of and for service providers by empowering the elected officers, board members, and chapter and division leaders. Other executive directors may have been more authoritarian and controlled outcomes. Kathy did not. Kathy assisted our elected leaders and found ways to make their ideas work and always was very tactful in warning of consequences, or bumps, in the path ahead.

From our experience, one does not work with Kathy without truly admiring and respecting

See Megivern on page 3

Inside This Issue:

Scholarship & Internship Odds & Ends

Atlanta & AER: One Peach of a Pair

How to Become a Trainer/Supervisor of O&M Assistants

RE:sources, Across the Spectrum, and more!

Mission: To develop and promote professional excellence through support of those who provide services to people with visual impairments

From the President...

Accomplishments, Accolades, and Unfinished Business

As my presidency of AER comes to an end, it's time to reflect and evaluate. The Board has accomplished many of its goals. Under the leadership of David Ekin, AER's Treasurer, we have implemented a sound financial policy for future investments and growth. We have initiated a dues increase that will allow our organization to expand and provide quality services for the future. Our personnel committee, directed by Past President Barbara McCarthy, has created job descriptions and an evaluation instrument for our executive director that is ready for implementation. The Board has approved the establishment of a Canadian office and created benchmarks by which to evaluate its success. The Certification Review Committee leadership, George Zimmerman and Dennis Lolli, worked with Kathy Megivern towards establishing an outside certification body for AER. Finally, we have a structure in place for nominations of district representatives, division representatives, and officers to the AER Board. The new Board will be smaller in size, allowing more funds to be used for programs, professional development, and publications.

Programatically, we have expanded our services. We have a website. AER members are receiving three publications on a regular basis: AER Report, RE:view, and JVIB. AER Job Exchange is now a free benefit of AER membership. AER members receive discounts at statewide and international conferences. The Board has just approved the concept of yearly conferences, with a large biennial conference, and off year topical conferences. This concept will be put into place in 1999. We have conducted numerous AER-Line Teleseminars this biennium. Hopefully this concept will be expanded to include online workshops and much more.

While great strides have been made organizationally, one of my greatest disappointments during this biennium has been with membership. I am gravely concerned about the commitment many of our member show to AER and to our profession. I recognize that we are all stretched to the limit with work. I also recognize that financial cutbacks and organizational changes within education and rehabilitation have created disincentives to support and to become involved with AER. We are the only voice of the profession. I encourage you to take a leadership role, and direct the future change of this organization. It is CRITICAL.

In addition to the many accomplishments the Board has directed, we undertook the great challenge of finding and hiring an outstanding executive director, Denise Rozell, and an excellent assistant director of membership programs and services, Lorna Frazier-Lindsey. These tasks took much time and energy. I want to thank the Search

See President on page 3

AER Report is published six times a year as a membership service. Chapters, divisions, and individual members are encouraged to submit items of interest for publication to:

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e-mail: aernet@laser.net
www.aerbvi.org

AER does not review or evaluate the literature or products listed in its newsletter. A listing, therefore, does not suggest AER endorsement. The views expressed herein represent those of the author(s) and not necessarily those of AER, its Board of Directors, staff or the editor. **AER Report** provides for the publication of materials that may represent divergent ideas, judgments, and opinions.

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Carolyn Sharp, Receptionist
Xiaoming Zhang, CPA, Accountant

President from page 2

Committee again for all of its hard work and great energy. They include: Peggy Madera, Leslee Williams, Linda Studholme, Bryan Gerritsen, and Bill Wiener. I especially want to thank Rick Welsh, Chairman of the Search Committee, for his great leadership skills and true commitment and love to AER.

I cannot close without thanking Kathy Megivern for the support she has given to me and the Board throughout this biennium. She will be missed greatly by those who have had the honor of working with her at AER. Kathy, your dedication and true love for our organization has shaped its growth and expansion.■

Sharon Zell Sacks
szsacks@aol.com

Megivern from page 1

her intelligence, judgment, compassion, fairness, people skills, common sense, humanistic values, and ethical principles. People genuinely and strongly like Kathy. People are appreciative not only for what she contributes in terms of work product but for what she gives others. We have witnessed at chapter and national conference AER members meeting Kathy for the first time. They are frequently in awe, when they discovered that they are interacting with the informative author in the *AER Report*, the well-regarded Capitol Hill Lobbyist, the "AER legend." Then they discover that they need not be uncomfortable. Kathy has the ability to make others feel comfortable.

AER will miss Kathy. However, Kathy's mark will always be on AER. She carried, nurtured, and guided construction of an effective, respected association which now has a strong foundation which, with AER's recent restructuring, will definitely serve our members well in the future. "Serve our members well," a phrase in the last sentence, certainly describes what Kathy has done for our association and each of us as individual AER members. She has served us well, very well indeed.

AER has been blessed to have someone with Kathy's skills at its helm during these early years. Again, knowing Kathy's quick, pleasant wit, and her humility, when she reads the last sentence she will likely, with her big smile, exclaim, "Well, thank you for saying I have done my job well -- but I wouldn't say you all were blessed! That's a bit too much -- no, that's an exaggeration."

We, as aging past presidents of this association, respectfully disagree, Kathy! We, AER members all, were blessed! And, that is no exaggeration! And, all superlatives used in this tribute, Kathy, were most deserved!■

JULY 8-12, 1998
AER 8TH BIENNIAL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
HYATT REGENCY ATLANTA ♦ ATLANTA, GA
For details, call Natalie Shear at 800-833-1354

W e l c o m e N e w M e m b e r s !



Barbara Adams (CO)	Donald Dehn (CA)	Kerrie Kirkwood (ONT)	Colleen Schoelz (CA)
Lynn Alderson (PA)	Donna Dory (CA)	Elaine Kitchel (IN)	Joanne Schutlz (NY)
Brenda Alyea (ONT)	Rolinda Duran (TX)	Beverly Klayman (FL)	Karen Seidman (NY)
Nanci Arnold (PA)	Elizabeth Dutzi (MI)	Cathy Kleinman (FL)	Doreen Seymour (NJ)
Pamela Aubry (IL)	Carol Earle (MN)	Terra Knowles (IL)	David Shapiro (GA)
Susan Baker (PA)	Catherine Emerson (ONT)	Cathy LaForte (NM)	James Shiber (MD)
David Banigan-White (PA)	Laurene Erickson (WA)	Renee Lamont (NY)	Dennis Siemsen (IL)
Anthony Bass (ENG)	Penne Freyberger (WI)	Dan Lee (IL)	Nancy Snell (IL)
Christian Bean (TX)	Blondeav Funderburk (SC)	Vivian Marcus (IL)	Yvonne Sullivan (CA)
Caroline Bennett (ONT)	Wendy Hayes (NY)	Scott Mathewson (NY)	Tracy Sweeny (PA)
Peggy Bodnar (CO)	Marsha Herring (OH)	Gwen Melnyk (MB)	Mary Verlinde (ND)
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Lorraine Buck (NY)	Ann Hodapp (IA)	Donna Nicolai (MA)	Bronwyn Welsh (MD)
Sharon Burke (PA)	Barbara Hopkins (FL)	Janice Northcott (ALB)	Kathleen Wynne (SC)
Shaojun Chen (AR)	Marystarr Hudson (AL)	Katie O'Neill (ONT)	Barbara Zykowski (PA) ■
Janet Cuevas (TX)	Fay Hutchings (IL)	Sandra Reino (AZ)	
Modenia Davis (SC)	Wendy Juenger (NY)	Shari Riley (OR)	
Joia De Salvo (ONT)	Jaiah Kallon (CO)	Zulma Sanchez (CA)	
Carolyn Debacker (AL)	Dorothy King (IL)	Maxine Sawyer (Montreal)	

Special Thanks!

A very special thank you goes out to the following members for their generous contributions to AER's MacFarland Stipend Fund, Lowenfeld Publications Fund, and General Operating Fund:

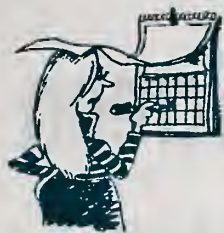
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| ★ Carl Augusto (NJ) | ★ William Coppage (VA) | ★ Samuel Depiero (PA) |
| ★ Gary Everhart (TX) | ★ William & Dorothy Ferrell (FL) | ★ Carolyn Hathaway (OH) |
| ★ Cay Holbrook (BC) | ★ Jacque D.H. Jordan (TX) | ★ Noel & Arline Stephens (AL) |
| | ★ Richard Welsh (PA) | |

In addition, we extend our sincere appreciation for the generous donation **Dr. Joan Chase (FL)** made to AER in the memory of **Dr. Emerson Foulke**.

We also wish to thank the following individuals for their charitable donations in the memory of longtime AER member **Carrol S. Trant (VA)**:

- | | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| ★ Col. & Mrs. R.D. Alhouse | ★ Emily T. Burgwyn | ★ Travis B. Garris |
| ★ Sue & Sam Hill | ★ Agnes & Edward Johnston | ★ Peter Keighly-Peach |
| ★ Mr. & Mrs. O.W. Kirkland | ★ R.B. & Helen Lowe | ★ Littleton W. Parks |
| | ★ and The Metropolitan Music Club | |

Thank you for helping us to support those who provide services to people with visual impairments. ■



Mark Your Calendars!

April 1998 - AER Colorado Conference. Contact: Dr. William Muir, University of Northern Colorado, Dept. of Special Education, Severe Needs: Vision Program, Greeley, CO 80631; 970-351-2613; e-mail dwmuir@bentley.unco.edu. ■

April 21, 1998/June 1, 1998/November 12, 1998 - Alternatives to Fear training program for professionals in the fields of sexual violence prevention and blindness rehabilitation. The program is scheduled for Flint, MI, Marquette, MI, and Bellaire, MI. Contact: Marcia Larabel, Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired, 616-458-1187. ■

April 29 - May 1, 1998 - Spring Conference for Service Providers in the Field of Visual Impairment, Holiday Inn, Hershey-Grantville, PA. Fee \$80.00. Contact: Debra Jordan 800-441-3215 ext. 224 or 610-265-7321; e-mail craigac@pathway.net or rholecki@caiu.k12.pa.us. ■

May 2, 1998 - 15th Annual Blind and Low Vision Olympics will be held in Northern California at El Dorado Hills High School. If you are interested in volunteering or would like a student application, contact Lois Harrell, UC Davis Children's Vision Assessment Center, 800-834-1007. ■

May 6-8, 1998 - New Jersey Commission for the Blind & Visually Impaired conference "Opening New Doors - Developing the Movement Skills of the Blind or Visually Impaired Child," Harrah's Conference Center, Atlantic City, NJ. Contact: Pamela Gaston 973-648-3333; fax 973-648-7364; e-mail pgaston@dhs.state.nj.us. ■

July 7-8, 1998 - How to Become a Trainer/Supervisor of Orientation & Mobility Assistants Seminar, Atlanta, GA. See page 15 or contact: AER 703/823-9690; aernet@laser.net; www.aerbvi.org. ■

July 8-12, 1998 - AER International Conference, Hyatt Regency, Atlanta, GA. Contact: Natalie Shear, Conference Coordinator, 800-833-1354 or 202-833-4456. ■

July 12-31, 1998 - Summer Institute for Blind Musicians - University of Bridgeport, Connecticut. The Music & Arts Center is now accepting application for its 1998 Summer Institute, a residential program for blind college bound high school students who expect to pursue a career in music. Contact: 203-366-3300 for more information. ■

July 12, 1998 - National Accreditation Council Board and Membership Meeting, Hyatt Regency, Atlanta, GA. Contact: Gerald Mundy, National Accreditation Council, 260 Northland Boulevard, #233, Cincinnati, OH 45246. ■

August 12-15, 1998 - Canadian Deafblind and Rubella Association's (CDBRA) 6th Canadian Conference on Deafblindness "Let's Celebrate Our Harmony Together," Toronto, Canada. Contact: Ontario Chapter, CDBRA, 350 Brant Avenue, Brantford, Ontario N3T 3J9; 519-754-4394. ■

October 9-10, 1998 - Autumn AER in Oregon Conference, Diamond Lake Resort, OR. Contact: Lisette Ewing at doczwing@aol.com. ■

October 25-28, 1998 - New York State AER 1998 Annual Conference, Utica New York. "Seasons of Change: Envision Your Future." Call for presenters currently open. Contact: John J. Kelly, COMS, 25 Main Street, #9, Garnerville, NY 10923; e-mail: jkellyinom@msn.com. ■

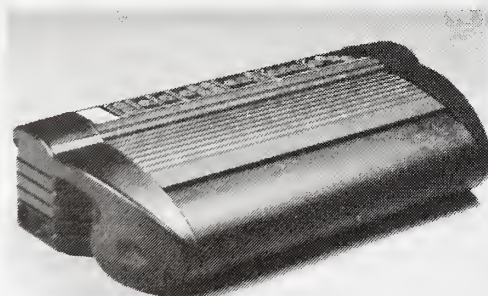
November 4-6, 1998 - AERO State Conference, Columbus, Ohio. Call for papers invited. Contact: Judy Cernkovich, Wood County Educational Service Center, 1 Courthouse Sq., Bowling Green, OH 43402-1471; e-mail: wc.jrc@mavca.ohio.gov. ■

May 6-9, 1999 - Atlantic Provinces Special Education Authority is hosting Canadian Vision Teachers' Conference '99, Halifax, Nova Scotia. Contact: David Miller 902-424-8539; fax 902-424-0543. ■

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Council of Division Chairs Report

by Mary Nelle McLennan, CDC Chair

CDC Holds Annual Business Meeting at AER-Lift:

As AER-Lift goes "AER-Borne," the Council of Division Chairs (CDC) rises to the occasion of its annual business meeting. The new practice of holding annual CDC business meetings allows us to conduct timely activities much more effectively than was possible with the former practice of face-to-face meetings held only at the biennial conferences. Annual meetings were approved by CDC members at the 1997 meeting held at AER-Lift.

On Saturday, April 4, CDC members will be addressing several key issues and reports in a two-part meeting. As part of the afternoon session, work groups will formulate suggestions and approaches to the topics of indicators for a successful division, initiating a training plan for division officers, and means and methods of promoting divisions and their offerings.

Reminder: The CDC is made up of the current chairs, the immediate past chairs, and the chairs-elect of each division.

More Voice for Our Divisions:

The voices of our sixteen divisions will soon be magnified. By design, AER's new structure strengthens chapter and division representation on the International Board. Effective July 1998, we will have four division representatives who will sit on the Board. These "reps" will be elected from four groupings:

- School Age Services (Divisions 3, 8, 12, 13, and 16)
- Adult Services (Divisions 2, 6, 11, 15, and 18)
- Related Services (Divisions 1, 4, 5, 7, and 17)
- Large Divisions - Any division with a membership that is 20% or more of the total AER membership will have its own representative on the Board. Currently, only Division 9 qualifies for its own Board Representative.

All four of the division representatives must be current members of the Council of Division Chairs (CDC) and will be elected by the CDC members of each respective grouping. Please note that this plan does not change the division structure in any way.

The nuts and bolts of the election process have been addressed by the CDC during this biennium. A healthy discussion of factors, options, and suggestions took place at the April 1997 CDC business meeting at AER-Lift. An ad hoc committee has been working to synthesize these considerations into a set of policies and procedures that will be presented to the CDC at its April 4 meeting during the 1998 AER-Lift. Stay tuned! We will report the finalized procedure in the *AER Report*. ■



Division Docket

News snippets from
AER Divisions

Divisions are welcome - and encouraged
- to submit brief, newsworthy items!

Division 7 - Low Vision

Division 7 (Low Vision) is pleased to announce the following dates for the Low Vision Therapist Certification Exam: June 6, 1998, 10:00 am - 12:30 pm, Portland, ME (must register by May 22, 1998), July 8, 1998, 7:30 am - 9:00 am during AER's International Conference in Atlanta, GA (must register by June 21), and October 3, 1998, 11:00 am - 12:30 pm, Watertown, MA (must register by

September 18, 1998). A certification application must be completed prior to registering for the exam. For a certification application, contact AER at 703-823-9690 or download an application from AER's website at www.aerbvi.org. ■

Division 8 - Infant & Preschool

The Infant & Preschool Division is seeking nominations for the three Division 8 Awards: The Berthold Lowenfeld Award, which is given to an individual who has contributed to the advancement of knowledge and understanding of the issues and needs relative to infants and preschoolers who are blind and visually impaired and their families; The Kathryn Maxfield Award presented to an individual who has

Continued on page 8

Continued from page 7

conducted significant applied or experimental research with infants and preschoolers who are blind or visually impaired and their families; and, The Pauline M. Moor Award which is awarded to an individual who has demonstrated outstanding practice on the front line with infants and preschoolers who are blind or visually impaired and their families. To nominate someone, please submit a one-page letter nominating the individual of your choice and providing justification for how that individual meets the criteria for the award. You may nominate one individual for each award, but please write a separate letter for each nomination. The criteria for awards include: have a longitudinal record of work in infant and preschool services for children who are blind and visually impaired, ages birth to five years; have gained the respect of peers, professionals from other disciplines, and families and children served; have worked in a related discipline (e.g., education, medicine, social work, rehabilitation, health related professions, etc.); have demonstrated competence in the field; have fostered or developed innovative approaches in the field; have made a

contribution to the theory or practice of working with young children who are blind or visually impaired; and have shown a willingness to share knowledge with others. Nominations are due by 5/1/98, to Elaine Karns, Children's Center for the Visually Impaired, 400 W. 57th St., Kansas City, MO 64113; 816-333-3268.■

Divisions 3, 8, 12, 13, and 16

Calling all members of AER Education Divisions! A joint Breakfast Meeting of the Multiple Disabilities and Deafblind, Infant & Preschool, Elementary Curriculum for Children, Secondary Curriculum for Children, and Itinerant Personnel Divisions has been scheduled for Friday, July 10, 1998, at the Hyatt Regency Atlanta, during the International Conference, from 7:30 am. - 8:45 am. Gather your breakfast from the Continental Breakfast Buffet in the Exhibit Hall, and join the gang for an important and informative breakfast meeting. Check the International Conference Program for room assignment.■



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Scholarship & Internship Odds & Ends

Looking for some tuition assistance, want to continue your education part-time, or interested in an internship in the field? Check out these related items recently received by AER:

The **Pennsylvania College of Optometry** has scholarships available for part-time students in the certificate and masters programs in Education of Children and Youth with Visual and Multiple Disabilities. The program offers courses in the evenings and/or on weekends. Students who already have special education certification would be able to finish coursework leading toward certification in visual impairment in two and one half years! Coursework prepares students to work with all ages of students and clients who are visually impaired, including those with multiple disabilities. PCO has a strong component in low vision due to its being part of a College of Optometry. PCO also has a strong emphasis on practical hands-on education. Special projects and demonstrations which make the learning real are a part of almost every course. If you, or someone you know, are interested in applying, please contact Diane P. Wormsley, Ph.D., Coordinator, EVI Program, 215-276-6169 or dwormsley@pco.edu.

Since 1987, **New York State AER** has had a fine tradition of providing scholarships to people who wish to enter our profession and provide services in New York State. Anyone interested in applying for the NYSAER Scholarships, should submit the following items:

1. An application letter, including return address and daytime telephone number. Individuals who have applied for scholarships in prior years, include those who have already received awards, are eligible to reapply.
2. Narrative that demonstrates the need and intent of the potential candidate. Special consideration will be given to work in rural or underserved areas of New York State and/or is bilingual.
3. Three letters of recommendation.
4. Copies of letters of acceptance or application (pending) from colleges or universities for a course of study in Orientation & Mobility, Rehabilitation Teaching, or Teacher of the Visually Impaired.
5. Proof of current AER membership (photocopy of current membership card suffices).
6. Statement of financial resources, including other grants, income, scholarship or agency support.

To be considered for a scholarship, all documentation must be submitted by May 8, 1998, to Julie Misegades, NYSAER Scholarship Committee, Resource Center for the Visually Impaired, 2A Richmond Avenue, Batavia, NY 14020, 716-343-8100, or fax 716-343-3711.

The **Blinded Veterans Association (BVA)** will award 16 scholarships under its Kathern F. Gruber Scholarship Program for the 1998-99 academic year. There will be eight scholarships of \$2,000 each available, and eight scholarships of \$1,000 each. The Scholarship Committee will choose 16 recipients and four alternates. Only dependent children and spouse of blinded veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces are eligible for the scholarships. The veteran must be legally blind; the blindness may either be service-connected or non-service connected. Additionally, to be eligible for the scholarship, an applicant must have been accepted for admission, or already be enrolled, as a full-time student in an accredited institution of higher education, or business, secretarial or vocational training. Applications for the scholarships may be obtained from: The Kathern F. Gruber Scholarship Program, BVA, 477 H Street, NW, Washington, DC 20001-2694. For additional information, call 202-371-8880.

Blind and visually impaired college students looking for a meaningful internship experience on Capitol Hill need look no further than the **American Council of the Blind**, according to Oral O. Miller, ACB's Executive Director. "We are pleased to announce the establishment of the national visually impaired congressional internship program, which will enable qualified blind or visually impaired college students to serve highly educational and exciting internships in the offices of a limited number of United States senators for a period of approximately five weeks," Miller said. The internships begin shortly after May 25, 1998, and end around July 4th. In order to be considered

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for this program, an applicant must be at least 18 years old and have completed at least one year of college with a B average or better. Applicants must also possess excellent word processing and Internet proficiency, good interpersonal and telephone skills, and the ability to travel independently in an urban setting. Applicants should submit a writing sample about what the applicant expects to gain from the experience, at least one letter of recommendation from a teacher, counselor or dean, and proof of legal blindness to Oral Miller, Executive Director, American Council of the Blind, 1155 15th St. NW, Suite 720, Washington, DC 20005. For additional information, contact Nolan Crabb, ACB, at 202-467-5081. ■



Congratulations to AER member **Alice Post (IL)** who was honored with the Illinois AER Distinguished Service Award at the Illinois Vision Conference in February 1998. ■

The Utah Chapter of AER is pleased to announce the following recipients of awards sponsored by the chapter: **J. Wayne Noble and Elaine Iwasaki**, Outstanding Services to the Blind and Visually Impaired; **Marilee Petersen**, Outstanding Services to AER; and **Gerald Buttars**, Ruth Craig Meritorious Award for Lifetime Contributions to the Blind and Visually Impaired. Congratulations to all! ■

AER Corporate Member, the **American Foundation for the Blind (NY)**, is pleased to announce that **Mark Richert** has joined AFB's Washington, DC, Governmental Relations Group, as Government Relations Representative. Welcome, Mark! In addition, AFB Press announces that its published book, "Instructional Strategies for Braille Literacy," edited by AER members **Diane P. Wormlsey, Ph.D. (PA)** and **Frances Mary D'Andrea, M.Ed. (GA)**, has been singled out for excellence in professional and scholarly publishing by the Association of American Publishers. ■

Congratulations to AER member, **Dr. Tuck Tinsley III**, President of the American Printing House for the Blind, on receiving the Distinguished Alumni Award

in Business and Industry from the College of Education at Florida State University, Tallahassee. ■

AER Corporate Member, **The Clovernook Center Opportunities for the Blind (OH)**, is pleased to announce that **Carolyn Bailey** recently joined the Center as Manager of Community Living Services. Good luck in your new position, Carolyn! ■

Dr. Richard Long (MI), an AER Member, has been appointed to the position of Associate Professor of Research within the Department of Blind Rehabilitation at Western Michigan University. Congratulations! ■

Congratulations to AER member, **Alan Roth (WA)**, on being recognized by the Tandy Corporation and the National Science Teachers Association as one of the top 100 science teachers in the country. Roth was given the honor for his work during the 1996-97 school year in adapting science methods and materials for students. ■

AER Corporate Member, **The Lighthouse Inc. (NY)**, is delighted to announce that the first annual communications contest "Thumbs Up" Award was bestowed upon **VISIONS of Indiana** at Trade Winds Rehabilitation Center, Inc. The award is in recognition of the best efforts in heightening awareness about vision impairment and vision rehabilitation in promotion of National Vision Rehabilitation Day 1997. ■

AER Corporate Member, **The Jewish Guild for the Blind (NY)**, has announced the appointment of **Stephen S. Katz** to the post of Vice President of Operations. Congratulations and welcome! ■

ATLANTA & AER: ONE PEACH OF A PAIR

By now, you should have received your "ticket" for the *Road to Excellence*, where *Teamwork Marks the Way* to Atlanta for AER's 8th Biennial International Conference, July 8-12, 1998. With all of the education, information, networking, and entertainment we have lined up for the conference in such a beautiful and historic city as Atlanta, which is renown for its peachtrees and Southern hospitality, you're sure to agree that AER and Atlanta make one "Peach of a Pair." Here are some of the exciting highlights you won't want to miss during your stay:

The Conference

- Over 30 workshop session on a variety of today's hottest topics
- Educational General Sessions with prominent guest speakers
- Informative AER Division Business Meetings, that are great for networking with peers
- More than 50 information-packed poster sessions
- Numerous presentations on the latest research findings and professional paper topics

The City

- Underground Atlanta
- Georgia's Stone Mountain Park
- The High Museum
- SciTrek
- Zoo Atlanta
- World of Coca Cola
- Fernbank Museum of Natural History
- The CNN Tower
- 100s of great restaurants, shops & more

Plus, you'll have plenty of opportunities to meet and talk with the numerous exhibitors, who will have samples of popular devices, hottest new technology, and beneficial services in the field that will enable you to do your job more efficiently and effectively. Here are just a few of the exhibitors who have already signed up:

- Ambutech
- American Foundation for the Blind
- American Printing House for the Blind
- Aurora Ministries/Bible Alliance
- Babyscapes, Inc.
- Carolyn's Catalog
- Department of Veterans Affairs, Blind Rehabilitation Services
- Duxbury Systems, Inc.
- Enabling Technologies Company
- Enhanced Vision Systems
- Eschenbach Optik
- Guide Dog Foundation for the Blind, Inc.
- The Hadley School for the Blind
- HumanWare, Inc.
- Independent Living Aids, Inc.
- Innovations, Inc.
- Leader Dogs for the Blind
- Matilda Ziegler Magazine
- Mattingly International
- Okay Vision-Aide Corp.
- Optelec U.S., Inc.
- Recording for the Blind & Dyslexic
- Seedlings Braille Books for Children
- The Seeing Eye, Inc.
- SensAbility, Inc.
- Sighted Electronics, Inc.
- Technologies for the Visually Impaired, Inc.
- Telesensory
- Texas School for the Blind & Visually Impaired

What makes this opportunity even "sweeter" is that you can take advantage of the early discount registration fees by registering for the conference prior to June 5, 1998. Atlanta, AER and you -- a team that can't be beat! So, come and join us *On The Road to Excellence* in Atlanta!

If you have any questions, or would like additional information, please contact Natalie Shear, Conference Coordinator, at 800-833-1354, or visit our website at www.aerbvi.org.■



RE:sources

From: AWARE (USA)

AWARE is pleased to announce the release of the following three publications: *New Independence! Environmental Adaptations in Community Facilities for Adults with Vision Impairments*, by Maureen A. Duffy; *New Independence! Craft Adaptations for Adults with Vision Impairments (Book 1)*, by Stephanie Stephens Van; and *New Independence! In the Community: A Self-Help Manual for Community Workers Serving Adults with Vision Impairments*, by Anne Yeadon and Maureen Duffy. Contact: Anne Yeadon, AWARE, P.O. Box 96, Mohegan Lake, NY 10547; 914-528-0567; fax 914-528-3945; e-mail awareusa@aol.com. ■

From: RT Listserv

Western Michigan University announces its latest list of instructional videos produced by students and faculty. "Enhancing Instructional Communications with Learners Who are Blind or Have Low Vision" (\$25); "Rehabilitation Teaching: Empowering Individuals with Visual Impairments" and "The Orientation & Mobility Instructor: Empowering Individuals with Visual Impairments" (\$20 each); "Insulin Measurement for Persons with Visual Impairments" (\$25); "Home Mechanics Skills for Rehabilitation Teachers" (\$20); "Teaching Needle Threading to People with Visual Impairments" (\$20); and, "Communicating Effectively with Visually Impaired Native Americans" (\$20). All are available from Dept. of Blind Rehabilitation, Sangren Hall, Western MI University, Kalamazoo, MI 49008. ■

From: RT Listserv

Two videos are being distributed by the Michigan Blind Athletic Association -- "Adapting Sports and Physical Education for Students with Visual Impairments Using the AccesSports Model," and the "WMU/MBAA Sports Education Camp for Youths with Visual Impairments." Each are \$35 and assist with fundraising to promote sports and physical education for kids with visual impairments. Contact: Michigan Blind Athletic Association, c/o Ponchillia, 55335 S. Thompson Lane, Three Rivers, MI 49093. ■

From: AER Listserv

The Division of Special Education in the Charter School of Education at California State University-Los Angeles, and the Division of Psychological Studies in Education at University of California, Los Angeles, are seeking outstanding candidates for the Joint Doctoral Program in Special Education. This program prepares individuals to assume leadership positions in the field of Special Education, including research, teaching, and administrative positions with particular emphasis upon preparing highly qualified individuals to assume university faculty positions. Contact: Joint Doctoral Coordinator, Jamie Dote-Kwan, Ph.D., Division of Special Education, California State University-Los Angeles, 5151 State University Dr., Los Angeles, CA 90032-8144; 213-343-4419 or 213-343-4400. ■

From: OpticalTouch Systems

In Spring, 1998, OpticalTouch Systems will release *Baroque Art in the Seventeenth Century*, the first in a groundbreaking multivolume art history series for the blind and visually impaired. Also, *Art History Through Touch and Sound: A Multisensory Guide for the Blind and Visually Impaired*, developed by Art Education for the Blind, Inc., is available and is the result of nine years of research, development, and testing. This innovative audiobook series spans history of art from prehistoric through contemporary, including some 600 tactile diagrams illustrating major monuments in the history of art. Contact: Kyoko Tokunaga 212-334-3700. ■

From: ESCHENBACH

Eschenbach has recently expanded its offering of telescopes for the visually impaired with the introduction of the #1633-3 and #1633-4 semi-focusable Galilean telescopes for distance. These telescopes can be mounted in either the Eschenbach #1630 frame or directly in the patient's spectacles. With a 23mm objective lens and a large 7mm exit pupil, they offer a bright image and a field of view wider than competitive mountable Galilean telescopes. Contact: Eschenbach Optik of America, Inc., 904 Ethan Allen Hwy., Ridgefield, CT 06877; 203-438-7471; fax 203-431-4718; www.eschenbach.com. ■

From: AER Listserv

Announcing Abacus Attack, a new educational game for blind and visually impaired students. Players roll Braille dice and move playing pieces around a magnetic Braille and large print game board, answering Nemeth/large print

Continued on page 13

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math questions, divided by grade levels 1-6. Contact: e-mail rhejadler@aol.com or call 717-933-5681.■

From: Resources for Rehabilitation

Announcing the fifth edition of "Living with Low Vision: A Resource Guide for People with Sight Loss," the only Large Print (18 point bold type) comprehensive guide to services and products that help individuals with vision

loss. Includes chapters on self-help groups, making everyday living easier, and special information for children, elders, and people with both vision and hearing loss. \$44.95 plus \$5.00 shipping and handling. Contact: Resources for Rehabilitation, 33 Bedford Street, Suite 19A, Lexington, MA 02173; 781-862-6455; fax 781-861-7517; e-mail orders@rfr.org; www.rfr.org.■



Show Off Your Membership with AER Logo Items!

AER Lapel Pins ✧ Proudly display the AER logo during conferences, meetings, and field seminars. This military tack-back, gold tone pin, with AER's blue and white logo, is discreet and understated, yet shows your commitment to professionalism through association membership. **Price: \$2.50 each** Qty. _____ **Price:** _____

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Across the Spectrum



**An information exchange focusing on literature
which references blindness
or low vision**

Submitted by: Greg Goodrich

Journal Reference: *Journal of the American Optometric Association*, Dec. 1997, Vol. 68 No. 12, pp. 757-762

Article: "Multiple Sclerosis, the Great Masquerader: An Atypical Ocular Presentation"

Author: Andre G. Erneston, O.D., F.A.A.O.

Reprint requests to: American Optometric Association ■

Submitted by: Greg Goodrich

Journal Reference: *Ophthalmic Epidemiology*, 1994, Vol. 1 No. 1, pp. 41-52

Article: "Health Insurance Coverage and Medical Utilization Among Working-Age Americans with Visual Impairment"

Author: Yen-pin Chiang, Ph.D., Jonathan Javitt, M.D., M.P.H., Sara Meterick, A.B.

Reprint requests to: Jonathan C. Javitt, MD, Center for Sight, PHC7, 3800 Reservoir Road, NW, Washington, DC 20007 ■

Submitted by: Greg Goodrich

Journal Reference: *ACTA Ophthalmologica Scandinavica* 1996, pp 533-538

Article: "Incidence of Blindness and Visual Impairment in Diabetic Patients Participating in an Ophthalmological Control and Screening Programme"

Author: Marianne Henricsson, Maria Tyrberg, Andres Heijl, Lars Janzon

Reprint requests to: Marianne Henricsson MD, Dept. of Ophthalmology, Helsingborg Hospital, S-25187 Helsingborg, Sweden ■

Submitted by: Greg Goodrich

Journal Reference: *Investigative Ophthalmology & Visual Science*, Jan. 1997, Vol. 38, No. 1, pp. 72-82

Article: "Function and Visual Impairment in a Population-Based Study of Older Adults"

Author: Sheila K. West, Beatriz Munoz, Gary Rubin, Oliver Schein, Karen Bandeen-Roche, Scott Zeger, Pearl German, Linda Fried, and the SEE Project Team

Reprint requests to: Sheila West, Johns Hopkins University, Wilmer Eye Institute, Room 129, 600 North Wolfe Street, Baltimore, MD 21278-9019 ■

Submitted by: Greg Goodrich

Journal Reference: *International Journal of Epidemiology*, 1996, Vol 25, No. 3, pp. 621-629

Article: "Sensory Impairments and Physical Disability in Aged Women Living at Home"

Author: Patricia Dargent-Molina, Michele Hays, and Gerard Breart

Reprint requests to: International Epidemiological Association ■

Submitted by: Greg Goodrich

Journal Reference: *Disability Abstract*, No. 13, Nov. 1995,

Article: "Who Pays for the Medical Care of People with Disabilities?"

Author: Laura Trupin, Dorothy Rice, and Wendy Max

Reprint requests to: U.S. Department of Education, National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR), Washington, DC 20202 ■

Submitted by: Greg Goodrich

Journal Reference: *Investigative Ophthalmology & Visual Science*, Nov. 1997, Vol. 38, No. 2, pp. 2566-2575

Article: "Demographic Characteristics of the Vision-Disabled Elderly"

Author: David Elliott, Mia Trukolo-Ilic, J. Graham Strong, Rodger Pace, Ann Plotkin, Pauline Bevers

Reprint requests to: David B. Elliott, Department of Optometry, University of Bradford, Bradford, West Yorkshire, BD7 1DP, United Kingdom ■

Submitted by: Greg Goodrich

Journal Reference: *Journal of the Wound, Ostomy and Continence Nurses Society*, Nov. 1997, Vol. 24, No. 6, pp. 302-310

Article: "Improving Stoma Management in the Low-Vision Patient"

Author: Candace Jeffres, RN, MS, CETN, FNP and Arthur MacKay, OD, FFAO

Reprint requests to: Candace Jeffres, RN, MS, CETN, Department of Nursing Education and Research, Bassett Healthcare, 1 Atwell Road, Cooperstown, NY 13326 ■

Submitted by: Greg Goodrich

Journal Reference: *Tr. Am. Ophth. Society*, Vol. XCV, 1997, pp 715-749

Article: "The Hong Kong Vision Study: A Pilot Assessment of Visual Impairment in Adults"

Author: Mylan R. Van Newkirk, MD, MPH ■



AER Education...

How to Become a Trainer/Supervisor of Orientation and Mobility Assistants

What: AER is pleased to offer this two-day, train-the-trainer seminar for Certified Orientation and Mobility Specialist (COMS) with at least two years of O&M teaching experience who wishes to become a trainer/supervisor of O&M assistants. Upon successful completion of this course, attendees are eligible to apply for AER Certification as a Trainer/Supervisor of Orientation & Mobility Assistants.

When: Tuesday, July 7, 1998 through Wednesday, July 8, 1998 8:00 am - 5:00 pm (both days)

Where: Hyatt Regency Atlanta, Atlanta, GA Room rates: \$88 single/\$108 double
To make room reservations, please contact the hotel directly at 404-577-1234 or 800-233-1234 (Be sure to tell the hotel that you are with AER to take advantage of the discounted rates.)

Instructor: The presenter for this seminar is Roger Huff, MSE, COMS, COMT/S. Roger is a Statewide Professional Treatment Specialist for the Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation and Coordinator of the Functional Vision Clinic at the San Antonio State School. He has conducted this course for us on numerous occasions, always to rave reviews!

Topics: →Your role and responsibilities as an Orientation and Mobility Trainer/Supervisor. →The benefits of having an Orientation and Mobility Assistant. →How to structure an Orientation and Mobility Assistants training program. →How to effectively use the training material which will be provided at the seminar. →How to supervise with success. →How to effectively write a proposal for the establishment of an Orientation and Mobility Assistants program in your school or agency. →The certification process for both Orientation and Mobility Trainer/Supervisor and O&M Assistant and the importance of these processes.

Cost: \$250 for AER Members \$335 for Non-Members

To Register: Please complete the form below and mail it, prior to June 1, with your payment to AER, P.O. Box 22397, Alexandria, VA 22304; or fax credit card orders to 703/823-9695

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☐ A purchase order is enclosed. Exp. date: _____ Signature: _____

AERwaves...

by Denise M. Rozell, Executive Director

One of the most surprising things about my job at AER is the myriad of diverse items that come across my desk in one day. Recently, there was a letter from a lawyer asking us to publicize a jury's decision in a lawsuit brought by a deafblind individual under the Air Carrier Access Act. It seems that this young college student, who had significant experience as an airline passenger traveling alone, was told by airline personnel that, according to airline policy, she could not travel "unattended." When she could not produce a person to "attend" her, she was forced to travel with an airline employee to her destination. This not only happened on the outbound leg of her flight, but, despite the airline's assurance that she would not need anyone to travel with her on the return, on the return leg as well. She sued the airline and the jury, finding in her favor, ruled that the airline had not followed the carefully drafted language in the regulations that clearly provides that a person who is deafblind need only travel with an attendant if the passenger "cannot establish some means of communication with carrier personnel, adequate to permit transmission of the safety briefing." The jury found that the airline could not substitute its speculation of what was "safe" for the clear wording of the regulation.

What held my attention in the letter was that the most carefully drafted statute and the most clearly written regulation made no difference in the treatment she received from the airline. The problem was in the implementation of the law and the education (or lack thereof) of the airline and its personnel.

With the final Department of Education regulations on the recent reauthorization of IDEA due out any day and with the Congress poised to pass the reauthorization of the Rehabilitation Act at any moment, it is a timely reminder that our work doesn't end with the passage of legislation. In fact, equally if not more important is the implementation of those laws and the work that we do every day in educating clients, employers, parents, teachers, administrators and consumers about them. ■



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AER REPORT

Volume 15, No. 4

August 1998

SPECIALIZED SERVICES SAVED IN NORTH CAROLINA!

Congratulations are in order to everyone who has been involved in the fight to save specialized services and the blindness agency in North Carolina! On July 16, completely without warning, a proposal was made in the North Carolina House of Representatives that would have consolidated the current Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, the Division of Services for the Blind, and the Division of Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing into one generic agency. The proposal also would have created a single Superintendent to "manage" the Governor Morehead School, the three residential schools for the deaf, and the early intervention programs for the visually impaired and deaf and hard of hearing. The House Committee approved this fast moving proposal on July 20, and it moved to consideration by the full House three days later, on July 23.

Thanks in part to the hard and quick work of AER's NC Chapter President **Sandy DeLuca** and the entire North Carolina AER Chapter along with the other local blindness organizations and coalitions in North Carolina, and the national blindness organizations (including AER, ACB, NIB, NFB, AFB

See North Carolina on page 8

AER ANNOUNCES NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS

During the first AER Business Meeting at the International Conference in Atlanta, Georgia, AER Past President and Chair of the Nominations Committee, **Barbara McCarthy** announced the elections results of the 1998-2000 AER International Board of Directors.

The AER Officers:

Elected in 1996, **Peggy Madera**, from Oak Lawn, Illinois, will serve as President. Peggy is currently a certified Orientation and Mobility Specialist teaching school-age children for ECHO, a special education cooperative.

Chosen as President-elect, **Billy Brookshire**, from Austin, Texas, is a Senior Human Resource Development Specialist for the Texas Commission for the Blind, where he has been employed for 23 years.

Mary Nelle McLennan was re-elected to the Board, however, this biennium she will serve as AER's Secretary. She is currently the Vice President of Products and Services for the American Printing House for the Blind and has been with APH since 1982. Mary Nelle is also a certified VI teacher.

Also re-elected, Union City, California, resident, **Gregory Goodrich**, will serve as AER's new Treasurer. Presently Greg is a Research Psychologist at the Western Blind Rehabilitation Center in the Veterans Administration Palo Alto Health Care System.

Sharon Zell Sacks, of Fremont, California, will serve as Immediate Past President. Sharon is the Assistant Superintendent at the California School for the Blind.

See New Board on page 4

Inside This Issue:

- ✓ AER's Award Hall of Fame Grows
- ✓ International Conference Memories
- ✓ Plan on Planning -- AER Looks at its Strategic Plan
- ✓ RE:sources, Across the Spectrum, and more!

Mission: To develop and promote professional excellence through support of those who provide services to people with visual impairments

From the President...

(The following has been adapted from Peggy Madera's Inaugural Address given in Atlanta. The complete Inaugural Address is available on AER's web site at www.aerbvi.org)

It is with sincere pleasure and great pride that I assumed the office of President of AER on July 12, 1998. The enthusiasm and support I felt from the hundreds of colleagues attending the AER Conference in Atlanta, added to the excitement of the occasion.

The new structure of the Board of Directors (listed on page 1) reflects the diversity of our members. This is the first Board elected under the new structure designed to draw the majority of its members from the Chapters and Divisions, and thus have more input from the people in the trenches.

AER is on sound financial footing as a result of the dues increase and wise investment of our funds. This will allow us to go forward with many of the goals and projects we have developed during the past few years, as well as some new projects we hope to initiate. The accomplishments of the past Boards have laid a solid foundation for us. It is now our responsibility to continue the progressive journey.

We are steadfast in our commitment to help our members provide quality services to persons who are blind or visually impaired. Uppermost in our minds is our obligation to remain faithful to our mission of professionals supporting professionals.

We have learned through feedback, experience and modern trends in association management that committee work is the key to the success of an organization. It gives me great confidence to see the very fine group of people who responded positively when I requested each one to be a Committee Chair. (See listing on page 3.) I am confident that we will achieve great things through these committees.

The make up of the AER Board of Directors and Committee Chairs is impressive. These 27 individuals include members from every Division and from 19 of the 45 Chapters. This assures that we will hear the needs of the members from all the areas of interest and expertise.

Our commitment to you, the professionals, influences our commitment to be accountable. Our goal is to look at every action of the Board in terms of measurable outcomes. We will make sure that motions that are passed by the Board and recommendations that come from our committees have clear and measurable outcomes.

It is our goal that when we finish our term as a Board, in the year 2000, we will be able to look back and objectively assess our accomplishments and subjectively say, "Good Job."

See Inaugural Address on page 3

AER Report is published six times a year as a membership service. Chapters, divisions, and individual members are encouraged to submit items of interest for publication to:

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www.aerbvi.org

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AER 1998-2000 Board of Directors

President: Peggy Madera
President-elect: Billy Brookshire
Secretary: Mary Nelle McLennan
Treasurer: Gregory Goodrich
Immediate Past President: Sharon Zell Sacks

District 1: James "Blue" Bickford
District 2: Karen Eckert
District 3: Carol Otten
District 4: Marybeth Dean
District 5: Marie Amerson
District 6: George Zimmerman

CDC Representatives:

Jana Almquist Barbara Hunt
Dona Sauerburger Jay Stiteley

CCP Representative:

W. Scott Meehan

AER Staff

Denise M. Rozell, Esq., Executive Director
Lorna Frazier-Lindsey, Assistant Director,
Member Programs & Services
Kim Gettings, Manager, Membership
Records
Carolyn Sharp, Receptionist
Debbie Neal, Staff Accountant/Office
Manager

Inaugural Address from page 2

When I was wondering how we will accomplish these challenges, I was reminded of a verse from the song, "Gonna Build A Mountain."

"Gonna build a daydream from a little hope
Gonna push that daydream up the mountain slope
Gonna build a daydream, gonna see it through
Gonna build a mountain and a daydream, gonna make 'em both come true."

We, of course, realize that our dreams for AER are more than just daydreams. They are focused dreams that keep us inspired to continually maintain and improve services for people who are blind or visually impaired.

Unlike the song, we didn't have to build a mountain. It was already built by generations of dedicated professionals who also had dreams. This professional mountain has stood the test of time and weathered harsh storms. In order to carry our professional dreams up the mountain slope we need the commitment of many. Our efforts would be futile without the support of a whole team of professionals willing to be responsible for making our climb successful.

Our climb is strengthened by scouts who explore the unknown and look for unrecognized opportunities and hidden dangers, and by experienced climbers who stay in pivotal positions to help and encourage new climbers.

At the base of the mountain are the dreamers who are willing to continue to create new dreams, rework current dreams, and assure that no worthy dream will die or be tossed aside. The fortifiers provide us with a structurally solid base by standing tough when our mountain must face the elements.

Scattered throughout these groups are the cheerleaders who encourage us and keep us excited about our dreams and challenges.

I am sincerely grateful to all of you who are dedicated to keeping our mountain strong and our dreams focused. We will depend on each other, the dreamers and fortifiers, the mountain climbers and the tour guides, the scouts and the expert climbers to keep our professional mountain strong and protect our dreams as they are carried up the mountain slope.

I am both honored and humbled that you have given me encouragement, expressed your confidence, trusted me with your dreams and have invited me to lead a group of explorers and climbers who will make certain that our dreams for AER make it to the pinnacle of our mountain. ■

Peggy Madera

1998-2000 AER COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Awards Committee	Richard L. Welsh
Bylaws and Structure Committee.....	Leslee Williams
Certification Review Committee.....	Eileen Siffermann
Continuing Education Committee	Carol Allman
Finance Committee.....	Gregory Goodrich
History & Memorial Committee	J. Elton Moore
International Conference Committee	Sharon Zell Sacks
Membership Committee.....	Carol Otten
Nominations Committee	Gale Watson
Publications Committee	Sandra Lewis
Resolutions Committee.....	Michael Bina
Scholarship Committee.....	Julie Hapeman
Strategic Planning Committee	William Wiener

New Board from page 1

The Canadian Representative is **Linda Mamer** from Ontario and British Columbia. A Past President of the Ontario Chapter of AER, Linda is currently a Provincial Resource Consultant in Deafblindness with the Provincial Outreach Program for Students with Deafblindness in British Columbia. In September, she will begin instructing in the Master's Program - Visual Impairment at the University of British Columbia.

The District Representatives:

James "Blue" Bickford will serve as District 1 Representative. Last biennium, he served as an Ex-Officio Member of the AER International Board in the capacity of Co-Chair of the Council of Chapter Presidents. Blue is Director of Education at the Washington School for the Blind.

District 2 Representative, **Karen Eckert**, has been very active in AER's Missouri Chapter since the late 1980s. She is a Vision Supervisor for the Outreach Division of the Missouri School for the Blind in St. Louis.

District 3 is represented by **Carol Otten** from Illinois. She is a past Illinois Chapter President and Board Member, and has served on many Division and AER committees. Carol is an Orientation and Mobility Specialist - Special Services for birth to age 21 at LICA Vision East in Morton Grove, Illinois.

Marybeth Dean, the Education Supervisor for the Connecticut Board of Education & Services for the Blind, Children's Services Division, was selected as the District 4 Representative. She, too, has been very active in her chapter, serving as President, Treasurer, Board Member, and in many other capacities.

Marie Amerson will serve as the District 5 Representative to the Board. She is a LEA Resource Center Manager at the Georgia Academy for the Blind, a position she has held for 10 years. Marie has been an AER Georgia Chapter Board Member for the last seven years.

Re-elected to AER's Board of Directors, **George Zimmerman** is representing Division 6 for the next biennium. George is an Associate Professor, Acting Chair of the Department of Instruction and Learning, and Coordinator of the Vision Studies Specialization at the University of Pittsburgh. He has been on AER's Board since 1993, and has served on AER committees as well as on the Pen-Del Chapter's Board.

The Council of Chapter President (CCP) Representative:

As reported in the last issue of *AER Report*, **W. Scott Meehan**, Augusta, Georgia, will serve as the Council of Chapter Presidents' Representative to the 1998-2000 Board of Directors. Scott is an O&M Specialist with the VA Medical Center in Augusta, Georgia.

The Council of Division Chair (CDC) Representatives:

The School Age Services Divisions' Representative (Divisions 3, 8, 12, 13, 16) is **Jana Almquist**, from Weatherford, Texas. Jana is the Coordinator for the Bluebonnet Co-op for Students with Visual Impairments.

Barbara Hunt, Oak Park, Illinois, has been selected as the Adult Services (22+) Divisions' Representative (Divisions 2, 6, 11, 15, 18). Barbara is the Visual Impairment Services Team Coordinator at the Veterans Affairs Hospital in Hines, Illinois. Barbara will also serve as the 1998-2000 CDC Chairperson.

Continued on page 5

Continued from page 4

The Representative for Related (or other) Services Divisions (Division 1, 4, 5, 7, 17) is **Jay Stiteley** from Morristown, New Jersey. He is presently the field representative for The Seeing Eye, the Past Chair of Division 5, and President-elect of the New Jersey AER Chapter.

Division 9 - Orientation & Mobility, which makes up 20 percent of AER's membership, has its own Board Representative, **Dona Sauerburger** from Gambrills, Maryland. Dona is an orientation and mobility specialist serving visually impaired adults for a small private agency in Silver Spring, Maryland. ■

CDC Elects Four Representatives to AER Board of Directors

By Mary Nelle McLennan, Past Chair, Council of Division Chairs

The voices of our divisions have been officially multiplied on the AER Board of Directors! At a meeting on July 9, the members of the Council of Division Chairs (CDC) elected four division representatives to serve on the AER Board. These four, as listed above, are a first! In the past, the CDC Chair was the lone division representative on the Board. Effective with this election, this practice becomes the standard under the new AER structure. In the future, these elections will take place at AER-Lift.

Congratulations to the four leaders -- Jana, Barbara, Jay, and Dona! And, many thanks to the creative and hard-working members of the 1996-98 Council of Division Chairs. You are all appreciated! ■

W e l c o m e N e w M e m b e r s !



Abdul Alkhayyat (Bahrain)
Jennifer Allen (TX)
Jennifer Alvis (OH)
Jacqueline Anapolle (MA)
Carolyn Bailey (OH)
Robert Beadles (AL)
Jennifer Bell (TN)
Leslie Bennison (SC)
Mia Bock (NY)
H. Diane Border (GA)
Karen Brashears (AR)
Eileen Brennan (PA)
Mayanne Briggs (MA)
Dennis Brookshire (NY)
Rosetta Brown (GA)
Kimberly Brucato (FL)
Tiffany Bryan (CA)
Janys Canizaro (MS)
Elayne Cohen-Strong (CA)
June Ann Correia (MA)
Bob Consentino (NY)
Julie Deden (CO)
Bobby Dennis (MS)

Alexis Donkar (GA)
Bettye Dorn (SC)
Kay Dyer (TN)
Leslie English (GA)
Claudia Ericson (KS)
Robert Fitzgerald (PA)
Nancy Flax (NY)
June Funderburk (GA)
Marc Gillard (CA)
Judy Ginsberg (NJ)
Leslie Grabert (OH)
Patti Grady (NY)
Lois Grandmaison (TX)
Tony Grantz (IN)
Linda Grissom (MO)
Jennifer Haralson (NE)
Adrienne Henderson (NZ)
John Hess (NJ)
Denise Hickey (MI)
Becky Holbrook (MS)
William Holbrook (GA)
Dave Holloman (NC)
Carolyn Hoppe (AR)
Charlie Jarrett (GA)

Tammy Johnson (GA)
Jennifer Johnston (AL)
Christina Kardes (MI)
Audrey Kindwall (IA)
Nancy Lacewell (KY)
Johanna Laird (MI)
Karen Lampkin (TX)
Joyce Lopez (CA)
Amy Marohn (GA)
Joseph Marquis (ONT)
John Mascia (NY)
Colleen McNerney (VA)
Megan Merriwether (WA)
Linda Milliner (CA)
Linda Monroe (MS)
Betty Moore (OH)
Portia Morgan (AZ)
Michael Muchow (GA)
Jennie O'Brien (MA)
Jaclyn Packer (NY)
Carolyn Palmer (AUST)
Joseph Pascale (FL)
Michael Provencal (RI)
Elizabeth Richards (TX)

Rosina Riveras (AZ)
Marian Robinson (FL)
Darren Rorabeck (ONT)
Stephen Ruszczyk (NY)
Susan Ruzenski (NY)
Eileen Schanel-Klitsch (PA)
Ronald Schuchard (MO)
Mary Shore (TX)
Larry Showalter (WA)
Deena Smith (MO)
Teresa Smith (KY)
Jane Thomas (MO)
Nancy Tilstone (PA)
Gail Toda (MI)
Lori Tyler (HI)
Diane Usrey (AR)
Debra Whitley (GA)
Lynne Williams (PA)
Robert Wippenbeck (PA)
Ned Witkin (GA)
Laura Yagodzinski (NY)
Tim Yerian (OH)
Lorraine Zamora (NY)
Susan Zekert (CO) ■

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Division Docket

News snippets from
AER Divisions
(Divisions are welcome - and
encouraged - to submit brief,
newsworthy items!)

Division 3 - Multiple Disabilities and Deafblind

AER's Multiple Disabilities and Deafblind Division announces the bestowal of the Virginia M. Sowell Award to **Rosanne Silberman** (NJ) and the Outstanding Practice Award to **Robbie Blaha** (TX). ■

Division 4 - Psychosocial Services

Dean Tuttle (CO) was honored in Atlanta with Division's 4 Robert M. Lambert Memorial Award for his endless contributions to the field. ■

Division 5 - Information & Technology

The Information & Technology Division celebrated **Harvey Lauer** (IL), the first recipient of the Harvey Lauer Award for outstanding achievement in providing assistive technology services. ■

Division 7 - Low Vision

Division 7 is pleased to announce the 1998 Division Award recipients: **Marshall Flax** (WI) for Outstanding Contribution to Division 7; **Dee Quillman** (AL) for Outstanding Contribution to Direct Service; **Gregory Goodrich** (CA) for Outstanding Contribution to Research and Literature; and, **Audrey Smith** (PA) and **Randy Jose** (TX) for Outstanding Lifetime Contributions. ■

Division 8 - Infant & Preschool

Division 8 congratulates **Sharon Bensinger** (KY) on receiving the Division's Berthold Lowenfeld Award and **Tom Miller** (MA) for being named the 1998 recipient of the Pauline M. Moor Award. ■

Division 9 - Orientation & Mobility

During their awards ceremony in Atlanta, Division 9 conferred their highest honors on the following members: The Newcomer-Hill Service Award was presented to **Karyl Ann Loux** (NJ); the Citation for Excellence Award was bestowed upon **Mary Konigsfield Wejrowski** (WI); **Richard Russo** (CA) was the recipient of the Sandy Kronick Distinguished Service Award; and the Blaha Award was presented to **Bruce B. Blasch** (GA).

In addition, Division 9 proudly announces the 1998 recipients of the Donald Blasch Scholarship. **Julie Harding**, currently enrolled in a dual certification program at the University of Northern Colorado, and **Kathryn Roeser**, a graduate student at California State University, each received a \$500 scholarship. ■

Division 11 - Rehabilitation Teaching & Independent Living Services

Certificates of Recognition were presented to **Gretchen Good** (New Zealand), **Pamela Cory** (Germany), and **Maureen Duffy** (PA), by Division 11. In addition, the Bruce McKenzie Award was bestowed upon **Donald Golembiewski** (WI) and **Anne Yeadon** (NY). ■

Division 12 - Elementary Curriculum for Children

Division 12 proudly announces that the 1998 Joyce Mae Ogburn Award was presented to **Josephine Stratton** (NY) during the Atlanta Conference. ■

Division 15 - Division on Aging

The Division on Aging is pleased to announce that **Raymond Melhoff** (MD) is the 1998 recipient of the Division XV Award. The award was presented to Ray during the Division's Reception in Atlanta. ■

Division 16 - Itinerant Personnel

The Itinerant Personnel Division announces that **Carol Farrenkopf** and **Duncan McGregor**, both from Ontario, were awarded Certificates of Merit for a Publication. ■

North Carolina from page 1

NCSAB, COSB), letters and calls to the legislators began immediately to actively oppose the proposed consolidation and support specialized services, agencies and schools.

When the bill reached the floor of the House of Representatives, the House passed an amendment to delete that provision by a vote of 57-55! Sandy reports that some of the members of the House were apparently talking about how many calls and how much correspondence they had been getting on this issue! Congratulations to all who were involved and thanks to all who spread the word! What wonderful results we get when we all work together! ■

In Memoriam...

We regret to report that Karen Simon of Lockport, NY, died of cancer on May 21st. She was 48. Karen was a Teacher of the Visually Impaired for Orleans-Niagara Counties in New York. She attended Geneseo University in New York. ■

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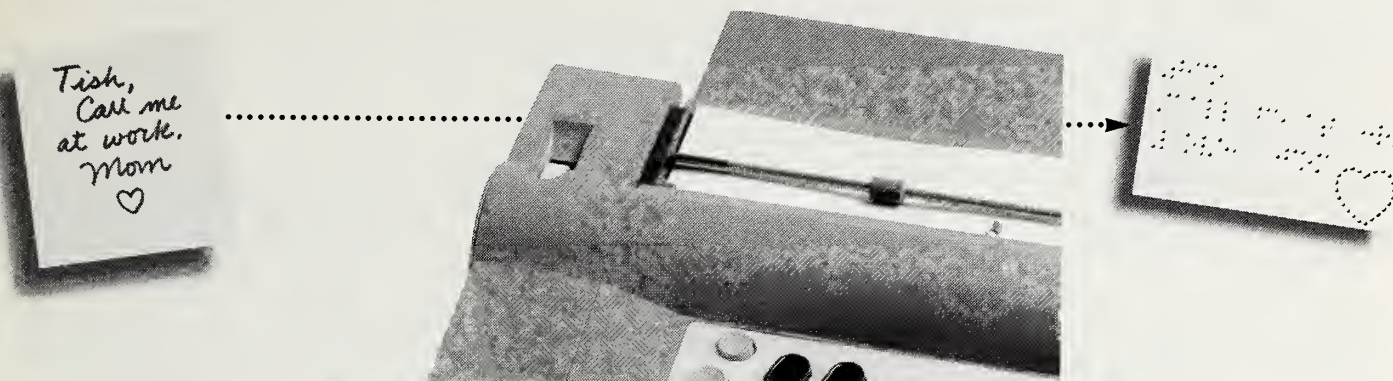
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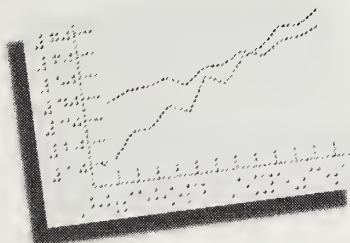
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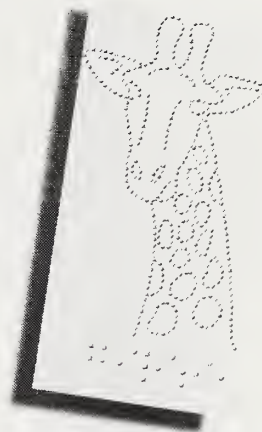
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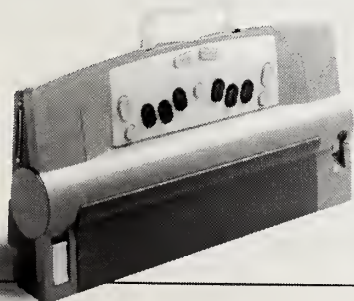
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AER'S AWARD HALL OF FAME GROWS

During the International Conference in Atlanta, attendees had an opportunity to recognize "the best of the best" in the field by acknowledging their achievements during the presentation of the prestigious AER Awards. These award recipients are now etched into AER's history for their endless efforts and outstanding contributions to the field.

The 1998 Mary K. Bauman Award, established to honor an individual who has made a significant contribution to the education of children who are blind and visually impaired, was bestowed upon **Mary Nelle McLennan**.

Mary Nelle is presently the Vice President for Products and Services at the American Printing House for the Blind in Louisville, KY. Previously, she served for eight years as the Director of Educational and Advisory Services and six years as the Braille Editor and Field Representative for APH. From 1967 to 1982, she taught both academic and special needs students at the Tennessee School for the Blind.

For over 30 years, Mary Nelle has dedicated tremendous amounts of time and energy to our professional organization. She has served as the President of the Kentucky AER Chapter, as Chair of Division 12 - Elementary Curriculum, and on various committees at the chapter, regional and national levels, including serving as Chairperson of the Council of Division Chairs from 1996-1998 and currently as Secretary of AER's 1998-2000 Board of Directors.

Through the years, Mary Nelle has been a major influence in the lives of hundreds of young people who are blind and the professionals who serve them.



Mary Nelle McLennan

The 1998 Ambrose M. Shotwell Award, recognizing outstanding achievement of an individual whose leadership and services to blind and visually impaired people have exerted influence on a national or international level, was presented to **Stanley Suterko**.

Stan has been credited as being one of the people who launched the profession of orientation and mobility. He has affect the lives of countless blind people around the world. He was one of a small group of "orientors" who pioneered the practice of orientation and mobility and facilitated its spread in the United States and around the world. He has been called by the Royal Guide Dog for the Blind Association in Australia, the "St. Peter of Mobility" because he is one of the main rocks on which the foundation of orientation and mobility rests. Above all, Stan is known as a person who believes in the ability of people who are blind.



Stanley Suterko

Stan entered the field of rehabilitation in March, 1947, as a corrective therapist at the VA Hospital in Hines, IL. After a short time, he was selected to be one of the first orientation members for the newly formed Central Blind Rehabilitation section, where he was later promoted to supervisor of the Orientation and Mobility trainees.

In the mid-fifties, he served as visiting staff at the summer session courses in education of blind children, sponsored by the American Foundation for the Blind in universities around the country. He also served as visiting staff at Birmingham University and Nottingham University in England.

AER

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Hyatt Regency, Atlanta, Georgia
July 8-12, 1998

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SPECIAL SESSIONS

- ☐ AER98-OS1 Opening Session & Kickoff Address: Laughing Your Way to Excellence in All You Do, Karen Vadino, MSW, LPCC, OCPCC
- ☐ AER98-GS1 General Session: Business Meeting I; Officer & Committee Reports; Award Presentations, Alfred Allan Award; John H McAulay Award; C. Warren Bledsoe Award
- ☐ AER98-GS2 General Session: Where is AER Heading?; AER Certification
- ☐ AER98-GS3 General Session: Current Issues Forum
- ☐ AER98-GS4 Inaugural Brunch & Final Business Meeting
- ☐ AER98-LU1 Bauman-Shotwell Awards Luncheon
- ☐ AER98-LU2 Town Hall Lunch

Thursday, July 9, 1998

- ☐ AER98-01 TH1-01 The School for the Blind for the 21st Century, Phil Hatlen; Mike Bina; Herb Miller
- ☐ AER98-02 TH1-03/08 Cortical Visual Impairment: A Complex Physiological, Psychological & Motivational Condition, Mary Morse
- ☐ AER98-03 TH1-04 Sexual Assault Prevention and Personal Safety Strategies, Wendy David; Kerry Kollmar; Scott McCall
- ☐ AER98-04 TH1-07 The SPARC Program; The Medical vs the Rehabilitation Model; A Model of Collaboration Between Community & Medical Rehabilitation, Eileen Schanel Klitsch; Elise Ciner; Marcy Grayboyes; Sarah Appel; Jessica Lampert; C Patricia McCabe; Rachel Rosenbaum
- ☐ AER98-05 TH1-09 Getting In Focus: Monocular Training Made Fun & Functional for All Ages, Diane Fazzi; Barbara Petersmeyer; Kerry Duncan
- ☐ AER98-06 TH1-11 When the Budget Says "No" Where do you Go: How to Develop a Fund Raising Strategy for Meeting Your Program Needs, Diane Wormsley
- ☐ AER98-07 TH1-13 Five C's for Maximizing Student Potential: A Survival Kit for the 21st Century, Jay Stiteley; Sandra Ruconich
- ☐ AER98-08 TH1-15 Curriculum Development and Video Making From Start to Finish, Alberta Orr
- ☐ AER98-09 TH1-16 Marking the Way for Public School Teamwork, Laurel Hudson
- ☐ AER98-10 TH2-03 A Comprehensive Tool to Meet the Vision Needs of Students Who are Visually Impaired with Multiple Disabilities, Alicia Li; Tom Hwang
- ☐ AER98-11 TH2-04 Responding Effectively to the Social & Emotional Needs & Identifying the Needs; Expectations of Blind & Visually Impaired Persons, Jane Parsard; Stacey Heady-Komenda
- ☐ AER98-13 TH2-07 Low Vision Service Providers Serving the Adult Population - Who are They; Where are We Headed? James Deremeik (moderator); Rick Welsh; Jessica Lampert
- ☐ AER98-14 TH2-08 An Exploratory Study to Investigate the Effects of Training on the Vision Functioning of Young Children with Cortical Visual Impairment, Amanda Lueck; Helen Dombusch; Jeri Hart

- ☐ AER98-15 TH2-09a Pre-School O&M: A Positive Practical Approach, Hannah Bleier; Daniel Kish
- ☐ AER98-16 H2-09b The White Cane - Deterrent or Enticer? Crutch or Enabler? Obstacle or Key?, Kate Harvey; Shauna Boghean
- ☐ AER98-17 TH2-15 Documenting Excellence in Services; Independent Living Program for Older Adults Who Are Blind, Priscilla Rogers; Ray Melhoff; Barry Stephens; Shu-Chuan Lai
- ☐ AER98-18 TH2-18 The Demographics of Visual Impairment and the Veteran Population, Gregory Goodrich

Friday, July 10, 1998

- ☐ AER98-19 FR1-01 The Campaign to Support Specialized Services, Liz Greco
- ☐ AER98-20 R1-03 Creating Vocational Portfolios for Adolescents Who are Deafblind and Have Additional Disabilities, Barbara Mason; Wendy Bridgeo; Christa Gicklhom
- ☐ AER98-21 FR1-04 Serving Others: Preserving Ourselves, Julia Kleinschmidt
- ☐ AER98-22 FR1-05 Recording For the Blind & Dyslexic's Trailblazing Technologies: Learning Through Listening for Students with Visual Impairments, Annemarie Cooke
- ☐ AER98-23 FR1-07 Are Students Motivated to Use Optical Devices?; Reading Training: Does it Help?; A 30 Minute Battery of Reading Evaluations for Adult Readers with Macular Degeneration, Gale Watson
- ☐ AER98-24 FR1-09 The Intersection of the Future: The Future is Now, Janet Barlow; Lukas Franck
- ☐ AER98-25 FR1-11 Seeing the Big Picture: Process Versus Individual Skills, Lynda Jones
- ☐ AER98-26 FR1-12/16 Focus on Social Success: Interventions to Enhance the Social Lives of Students with Visual Impairments, Sharon Zell Sacks; Karen Wolfe
- ☐ AER98-27 FR1-16 How Can Behavioral Consultation Improve My Students Functioning When Time is Precious?, Herbert Coard
- ☐ AER98-28 FR2-02 Unique Rehabilitation Needs of African Americans Who Are Blind: Views of Counselors and Clients, Marty Giesen; Lynn McBroom; Brenda Cavanaugh
- ☐ AER98-29 FR2-05 Survey of the Use of Assistive Technology in Florida and Illinois Schools, Gaylen Kapperman; Jodi Sticken; Sandy Lewis
- ☐ AER98-30 FR2-06 Making the Randolph-Sheppard Program More Competitive: Results of a National Training Needs Assessment, J. Elton Moore
- ☐ AER98-31 FR2-07 Criterion Referenced Training and Improving Long Term Use of Devices Among Elders, Gary Mancil; Gale Watson; Rickilyn M. Mancil; Bill De L'Aune
- ☐ AER98-32 FR2-08 Assumptions About Early Intervention: What Project Prism Tells Us, Kay Ferrell
- ☐ AER98-33 FR2-09 Trends in AMD Use and Curricular Suggestions, Annette Skellenger; Eileen Siffermann
- ☐ AER98-34 FR2-12 Beyond Listen and Think: Listening Skills Revisited, Sheri Trent; Mila B. Truan
- ☐ AER98-35 FR2-13 Personal Vision Portfolios, Edith Ethridge; Mary Nelle McLennan
- ☐ AER98-37 FR2-18 Low Vision and Low Vision Diabetes Education: What's New on the Menu?, Anne Whittington Reardon; Penny L. Schuckers

- ☐ AER98-38 FR3-01 Creating Successful Grant Proposals on National and Regional Levels, Lorraine Zamora
- ☐ AER98-40 FR3-03 Cross-Referenced Objectives Work (CROW) Minute by Minute: Make the Deafblind Child's World Meaningful, Susan DeCaluwe
- ☐ AER98-41 FR3-08 Walking Hand-in-Hand with Jan van Dijk, Patrika Griego; Linda Lyle
- ☐ AER98-42 FR3-09a Sensory Development: A Group Class Experience, Jennifer Ganton; Bonnie Fehrenbach; Sally Haack
- ☐ AER98-44 FR3-12/13 Preventing and Managing Behavior Problems of Students Who are Visually Impaired, LaRhea Sanford; Sally Barton-Arwood
- ☐ AER98-45 FR3-15 Advocacy Does Work, Judy Scott
- Saturday, July 11, 1998**
- ☐ AER98-47 SA1-01/17 How Many and Who are They?: A User-Friendly Session on Using Statistics About People Who are Blind or Visually Impaired, Corinne Kirchner; Emilie Schmeidler; Judy Scott
- ☐ AER98-48 SA1-02 Vocational Goal Setting: Using a Comprehensive Functional Assessment, Teri Shirk; Robin Totsch; Jennifer Alvis
- ☐ AER98-49 SA1-05 Access & Accommodations in Postsecondary Educ.; Providing Information Services on Related Issues via the Internet, Jamie Dole-Kwan; Jeffrey C. Senge; Jaclyn Packer
- ☐ AER98-50 SA1-07 What's New in Low Vision Devices?; What's New in Technology & in Computer Devices?; Changing Low Vision Services, Bryan Gerritsen; Robert McGillvray; Olga Overbury; Beverly E. Conrod
- ☐ AER98-51 SA1-09 Let Your Fingers Help Your Walking & Crafty Graphics, Barbara DiFrancisco; Jan Carroll; Alicia S. McAninch
- ☐ AER98-52 SA1-12 IDEAS, IDEAS AND MORE IDEAS for Teaching Students Who Have Severe and Multiple Challenges, Mary Morse
- ☐ AER98-53 SA1-16 Shared Visions - Family/Professional Partnership Skills, Karen Blankenship; Galye Prillaman
- ☐ AER98-54 SA1-18 Principles of Perimetry, Sharon McHellen
- ☐ AER98-55 SA2-01 The VISION Project by NAC: The Development of Outcome Measures and a National Outcomes Database for Services for People with Visual Impairment, Richard Welsh
- ☐ AER98-56 SA2-02 Congenital and Adventitious Vision Loss: A Comparison Based on Postemployment Factors Among Community Rehabilitation Program Employees, Adele Crudden; Robert Hanye
- ☐ AER98-57 SA2-02/05 Finding Information on the Internet: Tools for Effective Searches, Brenda Cavanaugh; J. Martin Giesen; Tara Laney
- ☐ AER98-58 SA2-07 Low Vision Driving: Concerns and Benefits, Gregory Goodrich; Anne Corn; Chuck Huss
- ☐ AER98-59 SA2-09 Sighted AND Blind O&M Specialists, NOT Either/Or, Judy Koch; Michael Graham

- ☐ AER98-60 SA2-11 The Use of Peer Sampling to Set Goals for Independent Living Skills Instruction with Elderly Visually Impaired Individuals, Gretchen Good; Steven J. LaGrow
- ☐ AER98-61 SA2-12 Assessment of Braille Skills and Effective Teaching Strategies for Braille Reading and Writing, Barb Lhotka; Kathy Grafsgaard; Jean Martin; Donna McNear
- ☐ AER98-62 SA2-13 Adolescent Challenges: Interviews with Ten Visually Impaired Teens, Penny Rosenblum
- ☐ AER98-63 SA2-16 Increasing Visual-Motor Responses within Functional Skills in Students Who Have Cortical Visual Impairment, Carol Farrenkopf
- ☐ AER98-64 SA2-17 Creating Collaborative Partnerships: Meeting the Challenge, KC Dignan

Sunday, July 12, 1998

- ☐ AER98-65 SU1-01 How Will Policy Proposals Regarding Social Security Benefits and Work Effect People Who are Blind/Visually Impaired?, Gil Johnson; Corinne Kirchner; Emilie Schmeidler
- ☐ AER98-66 SU1-04 Use of Games to Teach Social Skills to Children & Adolescents; Assessing Children: The Advantages of Negotiated Transactions; Augmenting Assessment Procedures for Students..., Herbert Coard; John Morse; Mary Morse
- ☐ AER98-67 SU1-05/13 The Future of Talking Books - Our Experience with the Daisy Project, Jim Allan; Gloria Bennett
- ☐ AER98-68 SU1-08 Games and Activities for Enhancing "Color" Recognition, Sandra Stimweis
- ☐ AER98-69 SU1-09 Using Verbal and Physical Prompts to Teach the Use of a Long Cane to a Student Who is Visually Impaired and has Additional Disabilities, Duncan McGregor
- ☐ AER98-70 SU1-12/16 Seventy-Four Years After Ann Sullivan Macy's Comment: Where are the Optical Devices?, Anne Corn
- ☐ AER98-71 SU1-15 People Who are Elderly & Deaf-Blind: An International Perspective; Nursing Homes for the Blind in Poland: A Service Delivery Comparison, Martha Bagley; Maureen Duffy
- ☐ AER98-72 SU1-18 Assessing Blind Rehabilitation Training Outcomes and Treatment Goals, Gregory Goodrich
- ☐ AER98-73 SU2-01 Ethics Accountability and Integrity, B.J. (Maxson) LeJuene
- ☐ AER98-74 SU2-02 L.I.T.E. - Preparing Tomorrow's Leaders, Rolinda Duran; Sue Ann Chandler; Julie Lee Kay
- ☐ AER98-76 SU2-09 Going Private: What it REALLY Means & How to Do it Right, KC Dignan
- ☐ AER98-78 SU2-12 Beyond the Miracle Worker: Books About People Who Are Blind & Visually Impaired, Billy Brookshire
- ☐ AER98-79 SU2-15 Aging and Vision: Strategies to Enhance Service Delivery to Older Adults with Impaired Vision; HIV/AIDS Vision Loss and the Older Adult, Cynthia Stuen; Carol Sussman-Skalka
- ☐ AER98-80 SU2-17 A Distance Education Program to Train Teachers of Children with Visual Impairments in Rural IL & IN Using the Internet, Videos, & Study Guides, Norma DeMario

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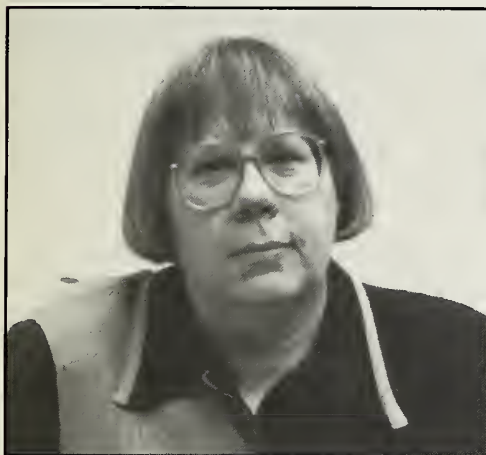
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In 1961, Stan was recruited to help establish the graduate level O&M program at Western Michigan University. His expertise and knowledge in this field contributed to the development of this program which attained national and intentional recognition. He conducted seminars and mobility workshops in England, Germany, France, Australia, New Zealand, and Poland. He established non-residential Mobility Instructors Training Center in the United Kingdom in Birmingham, England. In addition, he assisted in establishing the first mobility instructor program in Poland.

Stan retired as Professor Emeritus from Western Michigan University in 1984. He continues to serve as a board member of the Michigan Foundation for the Blind and frequently is consulted by former colleagues and students.



Judy Hurst

Judy Hurst, an itinerant teacher for Marion County Schools in West Virginia, is the recipient of the 1998 Alfred Allen Award. This award acknowledges the significant contributions of an individual whose character and dedication epitomize the spirit and quality of direct services to people who are blind or visually impaired.

Judy's commitment to the field is most evident in her continual striving for communication, organization, and professional growth among vision professionals in West Virginia. Three years ago, Judy began publishing a newsletter with information and tips relevant to the isolated vision itinerant teachers (VIT) in West Virginia. Since that time, VIT has become a coordinated group with officers, dues, and meetings. She serves as the VIT President and newsletter editor. In addition to her activities with VIT, Judy was instrumental in forming an AER chapter in West Virginia, which received its Charter at the 1998 Conference. She also serves as the West Virginia AER Chapter President.

In addition to her support of other professionals, Judy is immensely creative and dedicated in her daily service of students. She received her teaching degree in elementary and visually impaired from Michigan State University.

The 1998 John H. McAulay Award, which honors the outstanding achievement of an individual in the placement of people who are blind or visually impaired into employment, was presented to **Robert Hanye**, Director of Rehabilitation Services at the National Industries for the Blind (NIB).

With over 24 years in the field, Bob has assisted many local and direct service agencies in enhancing their employment related services, directed training for boards of NIB associated agencies, identified innovative ways to expand employment, and worked with the business sector in opening new career opportunities for people who are blind.

Prior to joining NIB, Bob worked in the fields of psychiatric and substance abuse rehabilitation. He was appointed NIB director in 1988. He has been active in numerous national and community organizations including the Task Force on General and Specialized Services and the Advisory Committee of the Working Years of the American Foundation for the Blind and the Upward Mobility and Accreditation Committees of the General Council of Industries for the Blind.



Robert Hanye

See Awards on page 12

Awards from page 11

The 1998 C. Warren Bledsoe Award, granted by AER's Publications Committee in recognition of a particularly noteworthy piece of literature in the field of blindness, was bestowed up **Susan V. and Paul E. Ponchillia** for their book, Foundations of Rehabilitation Teaching with Persons Who Are Blind or Visually Impaired.

A milestone in the field, this book fills a vital need for the rehabilitation teaching profession as it contains conceptual information plus practical wisdom and methodology. It is the first comprehensive book intended to assist in the preparation of rehabilitation teachers for work with people who are blind, as well as a systematic and comprehensive resource for those currently in the field. ■



Susan and Paul Ponchillia

On the Road to Excellence...Teamwork Marks The Way

From the conference evaluation forms we have received to date, all indications are that the 1998 AER International Conference in Atlanta, Georgia, was a resounding success! Here are a few memories from the program...



**The Honorable Bill Campbell,
Mayor of Atlanta, welcomes AER**



**Networking
at work**

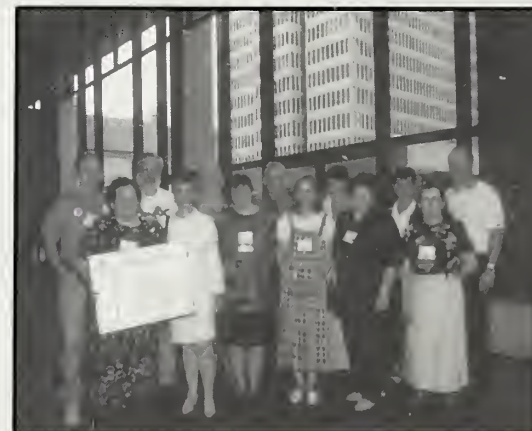


**Exhibit Hall
"Teambuilding"**



left:
S. Sacks, P. Madera,
D. Ekin, D. Rozell and
B. McCarthy enjoy the
antics of the Kick-Off
Speaker

right:
Past and Present AER
Board Members





AER Member Notes...

Congratulations to the following AER members who recently received a MacFarland Stipend to help defray the cost of attending the 1998 AER International Conference in Atlanta: **Susan Bergh**, Brighton, MA; **Carrie Lyn Carlson**, Tallahassee, FL; **Kay Daly**, Auckland, New Zealand; **Barbara Galgano**, Westminster, CO; **Kimberly Kerekes**, Westfield, NJ; **Michael Ocean**, Auckland New Zealand; **Gloria Rodzielowicz**, Toms River, NJ; **Basil Rowland**, Hampton, VA; **Rosie Thompson**, Jackson, MS; and, **Joan Tolla**, Tifton, GA. ■

AER is pleased to announce the recipients of the William and Dorothy Ferrell Scholarship and the Telesensory Scholarship. **Young-Il Kim**, Nashville, TN, and **Penny Rosser Reeder**, Montgomery Village, MD, will share the Ferrell Scholarship. **Karlene M. McLaren**, Roswell, NM, and **Catherine Ann Culbertson**, Tallahassee, FL, will receive the Telesensory Scholarships. Congratulations to all! ■

Best wishes for a happy and healthy retirement goes to AER member **Andy Papineau**, Sun Prairie, WI. ■

The American Foundation for the Blind (AFB) announces the appointment of AER member **Jane N. Erin, Ph.D.**, Tucson, AZ, as editor-in-chief of AFB's *Journal of Visual Impairment & Blindness (JVIB)*. ■

In addition, AFB announces the appointment of AER member **J. Elton Moore, Ed.D.**, Mississippi State, MS, as associate editor of *JVIB*. ■

Congratulations to AER Board Member, **James "Blue" Bickford**, Vancouver, WA, on receiving the Educator of the Year Award from the National Federation of the Blind. ■

The Badger Association of the Blind announces the opening of the Stephen and Nina Hopkins Rehabilitation Center located in the Milwaukee area. Besides AER member, **Tom Langham**, the Director of Rehabilitation Services, the staff of this new Center includes two AER certified Rehabilitation Teachers: **Jennifer McKeown** and **Diane Payton**; AER member **Heather Maes** and certified O&M specialist **Diana McMenemy**. In addition AER member, **Troy Hergert** will serve as a Technology Specialist and Network Administrator. ■

Congratulations to AER member **LeRoy F. Saunders**, Oklahoma City, OK, on receiving the 1998 R.B. Irwin Award as presented by the National Industries for the Blind's Board of Director. The R.B. Irwin Award is given by NIB to an individual who has made exceptional contributions to NIB and its associated agencies in creating and improving employment opportunities for individuals who are blind. ■

Welcome to AER new staff member, **Deborah Neal**. **Debbie** joins AER as the Staff Accountant/Office Manager. ■

Special Thanks!

A very special thank you goes out to the following members for their generous contributions to AER's MacFarland Stipend Fund, Lowenfeld Publications Fund, and General Operating Fund:

- ★ **Jan R. Caron (NM)**
- ★ **Elizabeth Depiero (PA)**
- ★ **Barbara Maher (CA)**

- ★ **Janet Clary (GA)**
- ★ **R. Lynne Hauman (IL)**
- ★ **Julie Misegades (NY)**

Thank you all for helping us to support those who provide services to people with visual impairments. ■



Mark Your Calendars!

September 18-20, 1998 -- Getting Started in Low Vision Rehabilitation, Atlanta, GA. This event will provide low vision rehabilitation-focused education and exhibits for eyecare professionals, as well as informative lectures for the consumer. Contact Sally Magallanes, The Low Vision Council (800) 331-2020 or e-mail info@lowvisioncouncil.org ■

October 23-25, 1998 -- AER International Board of Directors Meeting, Alexandria, VA ■

November 11-13, 1998 - NE/AER Annual Conference, North Conway, New Hampshire. "Cycling Through Life" Contact: Kathy Downes at S.E.R.E.S.C, 11 Peabody Rd, Derry, NH 03038; (603) 434-0556. ■

February 21-28, 1999 -- 24th Annual Ski for Light, Hotel Captain Cook, Anchorage, Alaska. More than 100 blind and visually impaired people will enjoy a week filled with cross-country skiing, interesting apres ski activities, good food and more. Applications must be submitted by November 1, 1998. Contact: Larry Showalter, 15002 N.E. 9th Place, Bellevue, WA 98007; (425) 644-5663 or e-mail larry@sfl.org or download the application from the Ski for Light home page at www.sfl.org. ■

July 12-16, 1999 -- Vision '99, the premier triennial International Conference on Low Vision, Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, New York. Held in collaboration with the International Society on Low Vision Research and

Rehabilitation, and the World Blind Union's Committee on Blindness and Aging. Contact: 800-829-0500 or 212-821-9482 for information; or website www.lighthouse.org/vision99.html ■

July 14-18, 2000 -- AER 2000 International Conference, Adams Mark Hotel, Denver, Colorado. Additional details to follow. ■

1998 AER Low Vision Therapist Certification Exam Schedule

Please note the following dates of upcoming Division 7 - Low Vision Therapist Certification Examinations. In order to take the exam, you must preregister and complete the certification application process by the cutoff dates indicated below. To obtain certification applications and additional information, please contact AER at 703-823-9690.

September 12, 1998 - Chicago Lighthouse, Chicago, IL, 10:00 AM to 11:30 AM. Must register and complete the certification application process by August 28, 1998.

October 3, 1998 - Perkins School for the Blind, Watertown, MA, 11:00 AM to 12:30 PM. Must register and complete the certification application process by September 18, 1998.

October 17, 1998 - Veterans Administration, Birmingham, AL, 10:00 AM to 11:30 AM. Must register and complete the certification application process by October 2, 1998.

November 14, 1998 - University of Houston, Houston, TX, 10:00 AM to 11:30 AM. Must register and complete the certification application process by October 30, 1998. ■

Notice to Membership:

When responding to your AER Membership Renewal Notice, if you choose to fax us your renewal and credit card payment, please do not mail it to us as well. By faxing and mailing your membership renewal, you may be double billed for your dues payment. If you have any questions, please contact AER at 703-823-9690 or aer@aerbvi.org. Thank you! ■



From: Arkenstone, Inc.

Arkenstone has moved! Please make note of the new address: Arkenstone, Inc., NASA-AMES-Moffet Complex, Building 23, P.O. Box 215, Moffet Field, CA 94035. The telephone number remains the same 800-444-4443.■

From: Envision Technology

Envision Technology announces the Expert Reader, a new stand-alone reading machine from Xerox. About the size of a small copying machine, it is designed to read printed materials out loud. For more information, contact: 301-654-3568.■

From: Who's Who of American Inventors

AER member Betty Jo and Jack Keitzer have been selected for inclusion of the 1998-1999 Edition of Who's Who of American Inventors. This prestigious honor was based on the Multipurpose Check Writing Guide invention. The multipurpose guide is for anyone with a writing difficulty, enabling them to write standard checks (endorse, or deposit) and purchase and cash travelers checks. Contact: 352-326-3437.■

From: Kaliedoscope

In an effort to educate the Deaf Community about HIV prevention and AIDS, KALEIDOSCOPE Television has produced 8 television public service announcements that refer viewers to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National AIDS Hotline for the Deaf and hard of hearing. Contact: 800-458-5231 (voice)/800-243-7012 (TTY).■

From: Foundation for Blind Children

The Arizona Instructional Resource Center at the Foundation for Blind Children in Phoenix announces the completion of a Braille transcription of the English Translation of the HOLY KORAN. The braille copy is available for sale in seven volumes. Contact: 602-331-1470.■

From: Bartiméus

Bartiméus presents a unique book on gardening for people with visual impairments: "Gardening Within Arm's Reach." The book demonstrates how gardening can stimulate other aspects of being human, which includes all of the five senses. Contact: Bartiméus Staff Department, Utrechtseweg 84, 3702 AD Zeist, The Netherlands, fax to 0031306982347, or e-mail 106307,1215@compuserve.com.■

From: Blazie Engineering & Telesensory Corp

Blazie Engineering and Telesensory Corporation jointly announced the planned acquisition by Blazie Engineering of Telesensory Corporation's Computer Access Products (CAP) group. This product group includes the Power Braille family of refreshable Braille displays, and distribution of related hardware and software products. Contact: Bryan Blazie 410-893-9333 or Judy Rawlings 408-616-8700 ext. 3600.■

From: O&M Listserv

All of Michigan State University's lists have been moved to the list.msu.edu system. You are encouraged to use the new address to post messages and send commands to the server. To post to the list you should now use the address oandm@list.msu.edu. To sign on or off the listserv, use listserv@list.msu.edu.■

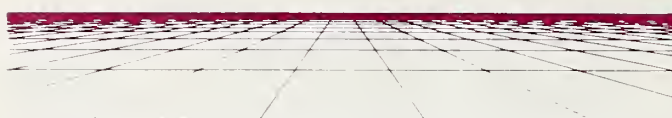
From: AER Listserv

The Adaptech Research Project out of Dawson College in Montreal is pleased to announce that they are online and interactive. The Adaptech Research Project is a grant funded investigation examining the use of computer, information and adaptive technologies by students with disabilities in public colleges and universities across Canada. Visit the site at omega.dawsoncollege.qc.ca/cfichten/adaptech.htm.■

From: Library of Congress

Digital Talking Books: Planning for the Future, a 72 page report outlining the scope of activity and steps required to develop digital talking books for America's Talking-book program, has been released by the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS). To obtain a copy, contact 202-707-4100; fax 202-707-0712; or e-mail nls@loc.gov.■

Across the Spectrum



**An information exchange focusing on literature
which references blindness
or low vision**

Submitted by: Greg Goodrich

Journal Reference: *Psychological Science*, May 1998,
Vol. 9, No. 3, pp.211-214

Article: "Perception of Object Length by Sound"

Authors: Claudia Carello, Krista L. Anderson, Andre J.
Kunkler-Peck

Reprint requests to: Claudia Carello, CESPA U-20, 405
Babbidge Road, University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT
06269-1020■

Submitted by: Greg Goodrich

Journal Reference: *Arch Ophthalmology*, Vol. 116,
Feb. 1998, pp. 236-238

Article: "Is Perception of Light Useful to the Blind
Patient?" (Editorial)

Author: Robin D. Ross, MD

Reprint requests to: Dr. Robin D. Ross, Retina and
Diabetic Eye Specialist, 2000 Old West Chester Pike,
Havertown, PA 19083; e-mail robindross@aol.com■

Submitted by: Greg Goodrich

Journal Reference: *Arch Physical Medical
Rehabilitation*, Vol. 79, February 1998, pp. 216-217

Article: "Use of a Motorized Wheelchair in
Conjunction with a Guide Dog for the Legally Blind and
Physically Disabled"

Authors: Mark G. Greenbaum, MD, Sylvia Fernades,
MD, Stanley F. Wainapel, MD

Reprint requests to: Mark G. Greenbaum, MD,
Department of Rehabilitation Medicine, Albert Einstein
College of Medicine/Montefior Medical Center, 1500
Blondell Ave., Bronx, NY 10461■

Submitted by: Greg Goodrich

Journal Reference: *Arch Ophthalmology*, Vol. 116,
April 1998, pp. 514-520

Article: "The Psychosocial Impact of Macular
Degeneration"

Authors: Rebecca A. Williams, PhD, Barbara L.
Brody, MPH, Ronald G. Thomas, PhD, Robert M.
Kaplan, PhD, Stuart I. Brown, MD

Reprint requests to: Rebecca A. Williams, PhD,
University of California, San Diego, Department of
Ophthalmology, Shiley Eye Center, 9500 Gilman Dr.,
La Jolla, CA 92093-0946; e-mail
rwilliams@eyeecenter.ucsd.edu■

Submitted by: Greg Goodrich

Journal Reference: *The Gerontologist*, Vol. 37, No. 6,
pp. 620-628

Article: "The Relationship Between Vision
Impairment and Assessment of Disruptive Behaviors
Among Nursing Home Residents"

Author: Amy Horowitz, DSW

Reprint requests to: Amy Horowitz, DSW, Arlene R.
Gordon Research Institute of The Lighthouse, Inc., 111
East 59th Street, New York, NY 10022■

Submitted by: Greg Goodrich

Journal Reference: *Rehabilitation Psychology*, 1998,
Vol. 43, No. 1, pp. 3-16

Article: "Empowerment Theory for Rehabilitation
Research: Conceptual and Methodological Issues"

Authors: Marc A. Zimmerman, Seth Warschausky

Reprint requests to: Marc A. Zimmerman, PhD,
Department of Health Behavior and Health Education,
School of Public Health, University of Michigan, Ann
Arbor, MI 48109-2029■

Submitted by: Greg Goodrich

Journal Reference: *ACTA Ophthalmologica
Scandinavica* 1998, Vol. 76, pp. 50-55

Article: "Visual Ability Score - A new method to
analyze ability in vision impaired children"

Authors: Osamu Katsumi, Sihon Chedid, Jane

Krohneim, Rochel Henry, Cullen Jones, Tatsuo Hirose

Reprint requests to: Tatsuo Hirose, MD, Scepens
Retina Associates, 100 Charles River Plaza, Boston,
MA 02114■



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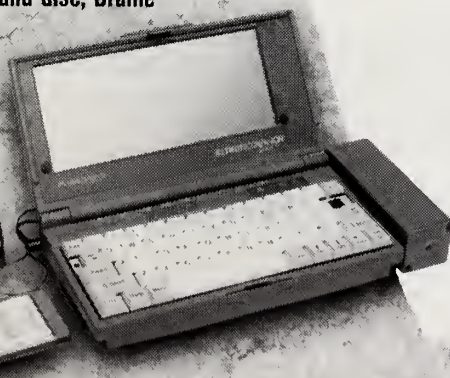


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- set alarms
- perform scientific calculations
- collect & send e-mail
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- maintain address lists
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The Braille Companion also helps you create, edit, format and print a wide variety of documents. Unlimited text insertion and dynamic file storage provide flexibility not found in other notetakers.

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For information on the Braille Companion or Keynote Companion notetakers, call (800) 722-3393 or visit our web site: www.humanware.com.

HumanWare 
... assistive technology for people
with visual and learning difficulties



Yesterday's News

by Gregory Goodrich

"Hidden bias" and research funding from the government? Or, to quote the Beatles in *Henry the Eighth I Am* "...second verse, same as the first."

In regard to funding to set up a research and development program on visual impairment "There are people who have said, 'Why do you need to go to the government? You get all the money you want. Just parade your blind people out with their dogs and their canes and you can get all the money you want.' This is what some people feel. If they are honest enough they'll tell you so; others may think it without saying it; still others may not be aware that they think such things. These are the 'hidden biases' we find so widespread. I think that we have a good deal of work to do in trying to make quite clear that we are interested in research that concerns *people*. We're not interested just in a pair of eyes, or in a pair of ears, or some fingertips, or, as some people think, a cripple who can only be taken care of not taught to be independent - we're interested in human beings, and we're interested in good research that will help human beings. I think this is the basic point of view we should make explicit to funding organizations and researchers alike. I believe we *can* stimulate research in this country which is in our interest. I think we can keep up the essential links of communication."

Milton D. Graham (1963). Stimulation of Research in Technology and Blindness. In Proceedings of the International Congress on Technology and Blindness. New York: American Foundation for the Blind, p. 512.■

Plan on Planning -- AER Looks at its Strategic Plan

by William Wiener, Chair, AER Strategic Planning Committee

In the summer of 1991 the Board of Directors of AER approved a strategic plan to help guide the association for a five year period. A planning committee composed of board members and members at large labored for almost a year and a half to assess the external environment, analyze the AER internal structure, develop a mission statement, expand upon the vision for AER, determine the critical issues facing the association, and develop goals and activities for the future. The plan was revised in 1992 and served as the foundation for activities during the following years. AER is once again developing a strategic plan that will guide the direction of our association.

With the recent changes in the structure of AER and with changes in its personnel, President Madera has decided that it is time to study the association and identify strategies for achieving our mission. Our recent AER-Lift leadership conference provided us with the perfect opportunity to gather information from the leaders in our chapters and divisions. During the AER-Lift conference, a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats) analysis was conducted. With this information and our mission in mind, our participants developed a list of strategic issues which they felt could become the focus of AER for the next several years.

The next step in our planning process is to identify which of these issues the general membership feels are most important. We, therefore, are asking for your input. Please review the following list of strategic issues and rank order the top 10 that you feel are most important for AER (1 being the most important and 10 being the least). We will use this information in the final plan, which will be developed by the Board of Directors.

Please complete and return this form to AER prior to September 15, 1998. Thank you for your input in guiding AER's direction over the next several years.

AER STRATEGIC ISSUES QUESTIONNAIRE

Please review the list of strategic issues below and rank order the top 10 which you believe should become the focus of AER during the next several years to achieve the following mission:

To develop and promote professional excellence through support of those who provide services to people with visual impairments.

AER should concentrate on the following strategic issues:

- ☐ Make certification strong enough to be recognized and respected by outside entities and third party payers.
- ☐ Encourage agencies to hire AER certified practitioners and teachers.
- ☐ Increase membership among our peers.
- ☐ Increase the number of rehabilitation members.
- ☐ Increase our visibility among the general public.
- ☐ Take positive steps to expand services in Canada and increase Canadian membership.
- ☐ Build a true international membership base (e.g., beyond North America).
- ☐ Take a pro-active role in legislative advocacy.
- ☐ Support training on legislative advocacy on the state level.
- ☐ Develop coalitions with other organizations to increase our voice (e.g., regular educators, occupational therapists, physical therapists, optometrists, ophthalmologists).
- ☐ Develop alliances with blindness related organizations both national and international.
- ☐ Place more emphasis on those coalitions we have already built.
- ☐ Build a more extensive network of support for our professionals.
- ☐ Commit to expanding professional development for our members.
- ☐ Encourage distance education while maintaining quality standards.
- ☐ Establish adequate funding for AER to accomplish its goals.
- ☐ Develop a system to respond to crises in state/provincial/local areas.
- ☐ Assist the field to use outcome measurements to document the effectiveness of what is done at local/state/provincial/federal levels.
- ☐ Strengthen and maintain personnel preparation programs.
- ☐ Expand AER continuing education offerings that use innovative technology and delivery method
- ☐ Other _____

Please return this questionnaire prior to **September 15, 1998**, to the following address:

AER Strategic Plan
4600 Duke Street, Suite 430
P.O. Box 22397
Alexandria, VA 22304
fax (703) 823-9695

Thank you for your input!

AERwaves...

by Denise M. Rozell, Executive Director

On my first day at AER, Carolyn Sharp, our receptionist, went out of her way to tell me what nice members we have. Whether you are calling to ask for assistance, a referral or even to complain about something (which I assure you happens rarely!), she reports that you are pleasant, friendly and helpful. This came as no surprise to me since I have met many AER members during the years I have spent as part of the blindness community. I, too, always found you helpful and interested in whatever public policy issue I was working on at the time. However, I must admit to having a whole new understanding of the commitment and dedication of the "typical" AER member after the Atlanta Conference. And, I want to use one member in particular to illustrate what I mean.

Upon AER staff's arrival in Atlanta, we headed for our on-site office to begin all of the last minute preparations before the official start of the conference. The biggest task to tackle was stuffing the registration packets. We hadn't been stuffing for long when Gerry Niedermaier from Kuna, Idaho, appeared and asked if we needed some help. He had just arrived in Atlanta and while getting acquainted with the facility, managed to find us deep in the bowels of the hotel, and joined us in our work until the task was complete. As we toiled, we learned that this was Gerry's first AER Conference and he was very excited about being able to attend. Throughout the week, I saw Gerry on many occasions, and each time he checked to see how staff was doing, and inquired if there was anything he could do to help. (He even offered to serve as relief at the registration desk!) I also saw him in conversation with a variety of AER members and exhibitors. And, whenever I stuck my head in a room before a session began to check on setups, there was Gerry. He seemed to always be the first person in the room eagerly waiting for the session to begin.

I hope Gerry doesn't mind that I have used this forum to both thank him publicly for all of his unsolicited help, and to use him as an example of the enthusiasm and commitment to AER, to staff and to each other that I find in members of this organization. I have no doubt that Gerry is just one of a myriad of members that I could have used as examples because Carolyn was right -- you are the best! So, thank you to Gerry and thank you to all the AER members!■



**AER Report
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AER REPORT

Volume 15, No. 5

October 1998

1997 Annual Report

Each year, AER publishes an Annual Report, which outlines the financial and membership status of the association, along with a list of the individuals who achieved certification in that year. The 1997 Annual Report is enclosed. Please note that since this is last year's Annual Report, not all of the current staff is included.

Overall, 1997 was a busy, productive and positive time for the association. As you will see, the 1997 financial news is good and the outlook continues to be confident. Also, the 1997 membership retention rate was excellent and continues to be strong thus far in 1998.

Last year proved that certification continued to be a priority for professionals in the field, as the number of individuals receiving certification in 1997 increased over 1996.

On the Hill, in the states, and around the world, AER members' voices were heard as we:

- assisted in the reauthorization of IDEA
- worked on achieving reauthorization of the Rehabilitation Act, and
- strived to preserve specialized services for individuals who are blind or visually impaired.

Thank you for making 1997 a successful year for the association. Should you have any questions, please contact AER. ■

Rehab Reauthorization Becomes Law

Denise Rozell, Executive Director

On August 7, 1998, the President signed into law H.R.1385, the Workforce Investment Partnership Act (WIPA), as Public Law 105-220. WIPA contains the reauthorization of the Rehabilitation Act Amendments of 1998 as Title IV. The Senate had passed the bill on July 30, followed immediately by the House on July 31. The Committee Report on the entire bill is H. Rept.105-659.

The reauthorization contains several items of good news for people who are blind or visually impaired. It does not make any changes to the provision in current law that allows for separate commissions/agencies for the blind, at the option of individual states. Further, this law does not include any of the language on consolidation with generic agencies or consolidation of vocational rehabilitation with nonVR or generic job training programs that had been suggested in past years. The law continues the Title VII, Chapter 2 Independent Living Services for Older Blind Persons program without negative amendments, and fortifies the language on the requirement that technology purchased by the federal government be accessible through the strengthening of Section 508 and its enforcement mechanisms. Finally, the braille literacy training projects, previously in Title VIII, are also continued, apparently without damage.

Congratulations to all in the community who worked on this reauthorization over the last several, long years. Given the threats to specialized services and agencies that we have seen recently, this is truly a victory to be celebrated!

It is important to remember, the reauthorization of the Rehabilitation Act did not address the amount of money appropriated to particular programs, only the continuation or reauthorization of the programs. Watch for an update on the appropriations in the next *AER Report*. ■

Inside This Issue:

- ✓ Spotlight on Berthold Lowenfeld Publication Fund
- ✓ CDC Proposes Merger to Board
- ✓ SFSU Visual Impairment Program is 50!
- ✓ RE:sources, Across the Spectrum, and more!

Mission: To develop and promote professional excellence through support of those who provide services to people with visual impairments

From the President...

Had any good dreams lately?

In my last presidential message, I spoke about the many dreams that we, the members of AER, have carried to the top of our professional mountain. Dedicated professionals worked hard for many years to assure that some of our dreams came true. Some of the dreams we have seen realized are:

- the signing of the ADA,
- the Reauthorizations of IDEA, and
- the Reauthorizations of the Rehabilitation Act

In the movie, "South Pacific" there is a song called "Happy Talk." It contains one of my favorite lines, *"You've got to have a dream, if you don't have a dream, how are you gonna' have a dream come true?"*

So true!

Without continually developing new dreams, we have no chance at making any more "dreams come true." The aforementioned accomplishments began with dreams, but were realized through commitment and hard work. It is new dreams that will enable us to accomplish more. Some of our current dreams that we will focus on during the next few years are:

- The establishment of an outside certifying body. This dream will help strengthen the value of the various certifications that AER grants.
- The development of certification standards and competencies. This dream will include the implementation of the competencies and the administration of the tests for those professions currently certified by AER.
- The establishment of yearly AER conferences. This dream will increase opportunities for AER members to gather knowledge and learn from each other.
- The development of ways to educate professionals in related fields. This dream will enable us to share information with related professionals about what we do and about the specialized needs of people with visual impairments.

When we were new professionals, each of us had some dreams that eventually came true. Quite likely, most of us have also had some professional dreams that have not yet come true. The important thing is that we keep developing new dreams that stretch our imagination and

Continued on page 3

AER Report is published six times a year as a membership service. Chapters, divisions, and individual members are encouraged to submit items of interest for publication to:

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www.aerbvi.org

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Continued from page 2

challenge our creativity. Obviously, it is crucial that we not only create the dreams, but also develop a plan so that we may see the implementation of these dreams. It is the development and implementation of these dreams that keep us excited about our work and our field. Sharing our dreams with others and allowing others to be a part of the process keeps us motivated. We can also learn and grow as professionals by seeing how others react to our dreams and the challenges that go with those dreams.

It takes cooperation, energy, planning and talent to make sure these dreams are fulfilled. We need to continually dream new ways to serve our students and clients, to integrate technology, to educate the public, and to empower the people we serve.

So...Have you had any good dreams lately? What would you like to see accomplished at your work, with your clients or students, in the field of blindness and within AER? Please be a part of our Dream Team and share your ideas for the field. Let us hear from you about the steps you think AER needs to take in order to best fulfill our mission of professionals supporting professionals.

Sweet dreams.

Peggy Madera
President

**AER Spotlights the Berthold Lowenfeld Publication Fund:
Proceedings from the Second Biennial Getting In Touch with
Literacy, Alan J. Koenig and M. Cay Holbrook, Editors**

In recent years, the topic of literacy has been prominent in discussions among professionals in the fields of education and rehabilitation for people with visual impairments. With recognition of the essential role that literacy plays in assuring independence, productivity, and enjoyment in life, the idea for a special literacy conference was conceived. The first "Getting in Touch with Literacy" conference was held in 1993 in Little Rock. Inspired by a group of dedicated professionals and consumers, this first-ever specialty conference on issues and practices related to the literacy needs of persons with visual impairments was truly historical.

This newly forming tradition was continued when the second "Getting in Touch with Literacy" conference was held in Austin, TX, in 1995. Over 450 educators, rehabilitation specialists, consumers, administrators, parents and other interested individuals attended the conference to discuss issues, share ideas, and examine new teaching materials. Presenters spoke on philosophical issues, research studies, innovative programs, and "this-worked-for-me" strategies.

From the 1995 Conference, editors Alan Koenig and Cay Holbrook combined some of the outstanding work that is being done throughout the country and around the world in the area of literacy for persons with visual impairments, and published it as "Proceedings of the Second Biennial Conference of Getting in Touch with Literacy" through AER's Berthold Lowenfeld Publication Fund. The collection of 24 Conference sessions include topics such as literacy in the school years, literacy in the working years and retirement, and professional issues and practices.

This must-have, 190 page desk reference resource is available through AER for \$25.00 per book and is available in print or disk. (There is an additional postage charge for Canadian and overseas orders.) For additional information or to order a copy of the book, please contact AER at 703-823-9690, fax 703-823-9695 or e-mail aer@aerbvi.org. ■

W e l c o m e N e w M e m b e r s !



Deidre Anderson (MS)	Kelli Griffin (AZ)	Linda Meehan (FL)	Julian Roland (England)
Suzanne Barry (NY)	David Haveman (MN)	Kathleen Megivern (IL)	Barbara Rolf (MT)
Lorne Bates (OH)	Sunggye Hong (AZ)	Lylas Mogk (MI)	Linda Ross (KS)
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Naomi Castillo (AZ)	Marcia Johnson (MI)	Bonnie Pearse (OH)	Lisa Watson (AZ)
Elizabeth Cerpa (FL)	Richard Kaufman (OH)	Doug Perkins (AZ)	Theresa Wellmann (MD)
Diane Costas (IL)	Maurie Kerrigan (PA)	Amy Phelps-Welch (MS)	Kelli Welsheimer (OH)
Betty Donovan (TX)	Angela Kraft (IL)	Brooke Pierce (MS)	Carrie Wilborn (TX)
Connie Ehlers (IA)	Ann Lamb (AZ)	Paul Potvin (BC)	Gretta Winkelbauer (MI)
Kathryn Ellis (TX)	Annette Langell (MI)	Terri Pratt (TX)	Amy Wooten (MS)
Lisa Engel (AZ)	Lisa Lettiere (NJ)	Stacey Purgahn (AZ)	Charlotte Wright (MS)
Oscar Faulkner (WV)	Patricia Liebswager (ND)	Raquel Ready (IL)	Frances Wysocki (NJ)■
Deborah Finer (NJ)	Margaret Lockett (MS)	Rebecca Ritchie (MD)	
Sophia Gary (NY)	Deborah Martin (OR)	Barbara Ritter (WA)	
Jared Grant (AZ)		Johannah Roberson (MI)	

SFSU Visual Impairment Program Celebrates 50th Anniversary

The Visual Program at San Francisco State University is celebrating 50 years of training teachers of persons who are blind or have low vision. This historic achievement will be celebrated at "A Touch of Class," a commemorative event to be held at SFSU's Seven Hills Conference Center, November 14, 1998. Festivities will include a retrospective highlighting the program's impact upon people of all ages who are visually impaired. A dedication of the new location for the Berthold Lowenfeld Library, displaying works by Helen Keller, will take place. (A nominal fee will be charged.)

San Francisco State's program is one of the oldest in the country, and is a national leader in teacher preparation, policy development, innovative methodology, and educational research related to blindness and visual impairments.

For additional information, contact Frank Ryan, American Foundation for the Blind, 11 Pine Street, Suite 725, San Francisco, CA 94111, or visit the "Touch of Class" website at <http://online.sfsu.edu/~amandal/50th.htm>. ■

the fasten seatbelt sign is illuminated

www.aerbvi.org

your on-line AER-line taking you where you want to go

Look What's Happening at P.S. 201,

with the help of the Mountbatten Brailer.

*Mountbatten, Mountbatten!
How do we use thee?
Let us count the ways.*

*For quickly brailleing a last minute test,
You are reliable, you are the best.*

*When two copies are needed fast,
No braille student need be last.*

*Spelling tests are actually fun,
Each week twenty words are quickly done.*

*When sharing secrets with sighted friends,
They are amazed at the messages it sends.*

*Easy to carry and colorful too,
First graders love to learn braille with you.*

*The whole alphabet is easy to do,
Contractions ready-made in Grade Two.*

*Columns appear neat and straight,
Program them in, on any date.*

*Your staccato sounds and helpful beep,
Let us know when a page is complete.*

*Silent, silent, you can be,
Storing notes in your memory.*

*Then when needed, out it flies,
A neat copy to study, to become wise.*

*Science, social studies, math, you know it all,
We use you winter, spring, and fall.*

*Our class is grateful for all the things you've done,
You are very special to us at 201!*



In Mrs. Joan Dulitz' class at Public School 201 in Flushing, New York, 12 visually impaired students are communicating in writing with their sighted teachers.

Sarah, a totally blind fifth grader, participates in a project called "Electronic Pen Pals." Each week she discusses a book chapter by writing her comments on a Mountbatten Brailer, which is connected to a standard printer to produce a text copy for her sighted pen pal. Her teacher-partner types a reply using a computer keyboard connected directly to Sarah's Mountbatten, which translates and embosses the reply in braille.

Conceived as a tool to teach braille and build reading and writing skills of visually impaired students, the Mountbatten Brailer also connects with many common classroom tools—such as Macintosh, Apple and IBM/PC computers—as well as Keynote Companion, Braille'n Speak, IntelliTools, AlphaSmart and standard printers. And, Mountbattens even connect with each other!

When connected to a personal notetaker, such as the Keynote Companion or the *all-new* Braille Companion, the Mountbatten becomes an embosser for hard-copy braille. Connecting a Companion or a DECTalk synthesizer to the Mountbatten gives instant auditory feedback for brailled characters, words or commands to enhance independent learning and editing.

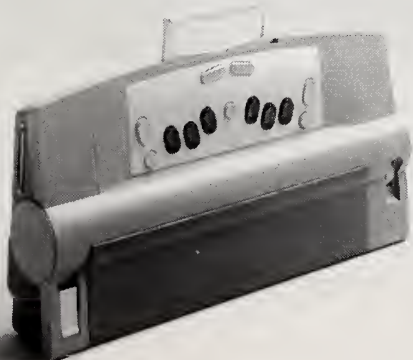
The Mountbatten is truly a literacy tool for all areas of the curriculum. Just ask the students at P.S. 201. They wrote this poem to describe their experience with the Mountbatten Brailer.

*For more information call or contact HumanWare
at 1-800-722-3393.*

HumanWare 

*...assistive technology for people with
visual and learning difficulties*

6245 King Road, Loomis, CA 95650
916.652.7253 / Fax 916.652.7296
email: info@humanware.com / website: www.humanware.com



AER Ohio Announces Personnel Preparation Scholarship

The AERO is offering a \$500 merit scholarship for a student in rehabilitation or education who is majoring in rehabilitation counseling, rehabilitation teaching, orientation and mobility or education of students with visual disabilities. Applicants should be admitted to an undergraduate or graduate program at an accredited college or university. Undergraduate applicants need to be of at least Junior standing. All applicants should have a minimum G.P.A. of 3.0 in the major field of study and be a resident of the State of Ohio, but need not be enrolled in a program within Ohio.

The selection of the recipient is based on the evaluation of the materials submitted for examination by the AERO Awards Committee. The deadline is May 1, 1999. Applicants must complete an application form, and provide their transcripts, a letter from their institution indicating their admission in good standing into an undergraduate or graduate program in the field, three letters of recommendation (at least one of which from someone not related to the college/university), a brief description of volunteer or paid involvement with individuals with visual or any other disability, and an essay explaining why they have chosen the field as a profession and what they would like to contribute to the field. For an application, contact Marjorie Ward, 1568 Lafayette Drive, Columbus, OH 43220 or e-mail ward.5@osu.edu. ■

New Technical Assistance Development Grant Awarded

(Reprinted with permission from *Project ACTION Update* - National Easter Seal Society)

The National Easter Seal Society's Project ACTION recently announced the awards of seven new technical assistance development grants for 1998-1999. One of the topic areas for the grants was accessibility solutions for passengers with sensory impairments. Among the grant recipients was the abstract "Making Transit Accessible for Persons with Sensory Impairments," by Computer Center for Visually Impaired People, Baruch College, City University of New York.

In the abstract, the Computer Center for Visually Impaired People (CCVIB) and associates propose to create and test a set of tools that will allow transit properties, in conjunction with their constituency groups concerned with blindness and visual impairment, to generate their own accessible transit information for these customers. The tools will consist of customized software with documentation which allows the production of tactile maps; a guide for transferring the specific orientation and mobility information gathered for maps to a customer database; a resource guide for products and technical assistance with regard to access for customers with visual impairments.

The two collaborating transit systems are MTA Long Island Bus (New York) and Pierce Transit, Tacoma, WA. This project is designed to demonstrate that, given adequate tools and references, individual transit properties can produce accessible materials in a cost-effective manner.

For additional information, contact *Project ACTION Update* at 800-659-6428. ■

CDC Proposes Merger to AER Board

by Barbara Hunt, CDC Chair

One of the many items discussed at the Council of Division Chairs meeting at the International Conference in Atlanta was the merger of Division 12- Elementary Curriculum for Children and Division 13 - Secondary Curriculum for Children. As these two divisions share common interests and goals, it was recommended that the two merge to form one, stronger division. This recommendation will be proposed to the AER Board of Directors for a vote at their October meeting in Alexandria, VA. Look for the outcome of the Board's decision in the December issue of *AER Report*. ■



Division Docket

News snippets from
AER Divisions
(Divisions are welcome - and
encouraged - to submit brief,
newsworthy items!)

Division 11 - Rehabilitation Teaching & Independent Living Services

Division 11 is currently planning the "Rehabilitation Teaching: The Next Century Conference 1999," which will be held July 21-25, 1999, at Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo. The Conference will combine efforts to build a formal foundation for Rehabilitation Teaching in the new century with the opportunity to celebrate 150 years of Rehabilitation Teaching. ■

Division 18 - Veterans Affairs

Division 18 proudly announces that it presented the Russell C. Williams Award to J.J. Whitehead, Chief of the Central Blind Rehabilitation Center at Hines, IL, at the annual Blind Veterans Convention held in August in Itasca, IL. The event marked the 50th Anniversary of VA services for blinded veterans. ■

1998-2000 AER Division Chairs

Division 1 - Administration.....	Gil Johnson
Division 2 - Voc. Rehab. Counseling & Employment Services.....	Karon Walker
Division 3 - Multiple Disabilities and Deafblind	Dennis Cates
Division 4 - Psychosocial Services.....	Martha Simmons
Division 5 - Information & Technology.....	Clint Campbell
Division 6 - Business Enterprise Group.....	Greg Rowe
Division 7 - Low Vision.....	Bryan Gerritsen
Division 8 - Infant & Preschool.....	Patrika Griego
Division 9 - Orientation & Mobility	Dona Sauerburger
Division 11 - Rehab. Teaching & Independent Living Svcs.	Lisa-Anne Soucy
Division 12 - Elementary Curriculum for Children	Carolynn Longuil
Division 13 - Secondary Curriculum for Children	Betty Squires
Division 15 - Division on Aging....	Barry Stephens
Division 16 - Itinerant Personnel...	Jana Almquist
Division 17 - Personnel Prep.....	Sandy Lewis
Division 18 - Veterans Service	Robert Kozel (Acting Chair-elect)

Nominations for 1999 Access Awards Sought

The American Foundation for the Blind (AFB) is inviting nominations for its 1999 Access Awards. In line with its mission to enable people who are blind or visually impaired to achieve equality of access and opportunity that will ensure freedom of choice in their lives, AFB will publicly recognize and honor individuals, corporations, and organizations with Access Awards who have made a significant contribution to the guarantee of these freedoms.

Nominations for an AFB Access Award should illustrate an exceptional and innovative effort that has improved the lives of people who are blind or visually impaired by enhancing access to information, the environment, education, employment, independent living services, or technology, including making mainstream products and services accessible. The effort should be one that has a national impact or can be a model for replication on a national level. Nominations, in print, braille, on audiocassette, or e-mail, addressing the above criteria should be sent to: American Foundation for the Blind 1999 Access Awards Committee, attn.: Judy Scott, AFB Southwest, 260 Treadway Plaza, Exchange Park, Dallas, TX 75235; e-mail afbdallas@afb.org. Nominations must be received no later than October 23, 1998.

The AFB Access Awards will be presented at a reception at AFB's 1999 Josephine L. Taylor Leadership Institute, held March 5-7, 1999, in Washington, DC. ■

Add to Your Business Library with Publications from B.F.I. AudioBooks

"Self-Publishing in Audio and Making Money from the Start" is primarily directed to would-be authors and discusses techniques for making use of the audio medium to put one's thoughts, ideas, and feelings into the marketplace. Author-publisher Julian Padowicz tells of his own experiences and gives advice for others. (1 hr. 20 min.) \$12.95

"Who's In Charge Around Here?" is a guide to dealing with irate individuals. While it is primarily directed to sales and service professionals who must deal with angry or frustrated customers, the psychology and techniques explained and illustrated apply to a broad range of interpersonal activity. (1 hr. 20 min.) \$12.95

"Soliciting the Major Gift" is a complete instructional tape on techniques for successful face-to-face solicitation in fund raising. It discusses and illustrates preparation, timing, overcoming objections, correcting over and under-estimated requests, and more. Has trained hundreds of volunteers as well as professional fund raisers in major universities, hospitals, and museums throughout the country. (30 minutes) \$14.95

"Stalking the Corporate Dollar" discusses techniques that a not-for-profit agency can use in forging partnerships with business and industry that result in gain for both parties. It teaches to identify and apply an agency's hidden resources, which is key to building such partnerships. This tape is considered a must for board members in many institutions. (40 minutes) \$14.95

"Your Meeting -- Constructive, Creative" discusses the dynamics of bringing creativity into a meeting. There is no formula that assures the presence of this ingredient, but the proven leadership techniques explained and illustrated in this tape, can provide fertile ground for group creativity. (30 minutes) \$14.95

"Public Relations in Support of Development" was originally produced as a guide to public relations personnel in not-for-profit institutions. Since most principles and techniques for building and maintain a climate of knowledgeable good will among constituent publics are the same in the commercial sector as they are in the non-profit realm, this information-packed tape has become a staple of public relations people everywhere. (1 hr. 10 mins.) \$14.95

To place an order, complete the following form and return it, along with your payment or purchase order to: B.F.I. AudioBooks, 1397 Hope Street, Stamford, CT 06907, phone (800) 260-7717, or fax (203) 968-2255.

QUANTITY	TITLE	COST	TOTAL
Shipping and Handling			\$3.50
Connecticut residents add 6% sales tax			
TOTAL			

Please Print

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____



1997 ANNUAL REPORT TO THE MEMBERSHIP

The AER Bylaws require that we report to our members each year on the status of membership and finances. In addition, we publish the official list of persons certified during that year.

1997 was a very busy year for AER with legislative action in the successful reauthorization of IDEA and the attempt to reauthorize the Rehabilitation Act, the various fights across the country to preserve specialized services for children and adults who are blind or visually impaired, and, internally, the birth of our own web site, the move towards putting the organization on firm fiscal footing, and the search for and hiring of a new Executive Director. We have reported on all of these activities in previous issues of AER Report. If you would like further information on any of them, please contact the AER office.

AER BOARD OF DIRECTORS 1997-1998

President: Sharon Zell Sacks
Treasurer: David Ekin

President-elect: Peggy Madera
Past President: Barbara McCarthy

Canada
Ann MacCuspie
Linda Studholme

North Central
Judy Holmes
Leslee Williams

**Council of Division
Chairs**
Mary Nelle McLennan

Northeast
Mary Beth Caruso
Robert McCulley

South Central
Janie Humphries
Barry Stephens

**Council of Chapter
Presidents**
James "Blue" Bickford
James Pietrzycki

Mid-Atlantic
Veronica Gilligan
George Zimmerman

Northwest
Wendy David
Cris Kostol

1997 AER Staff
Kathleen Megivern
Lorna Frazier-Lindsey
Kimberly Gettings
Carolyn Sharp
Xiaoming Zhang

Southeast
Dan Brim
Sandra Lewis

Southwest
Greg Goodrich
Frank Ryan

Membership Statistics

Because AER has a rotating membership year (meaning that membership is for twelve months, beginning on the date that the dues payment is processed), the total number of members in the association fluctuates from month-to-month. The best way to arrive at the total number of members, therefore, is to find the average number of members in the organization over the course of a twelve month period.

Please note that there are members who live in states and provinces in which there are no chapters; the total number of members in the association, therefore, will be larger than the total number of members in the chapters on the following list.

Member Type	'95 Average	'96 Average	'97 Average
Corporate- Level I	99	95	93
Corporate- Level II	3	6	7
Associate	60	69	74
Life Member	420	412	407
Regular	3,816	3,944	3,941
Retired	93	112	113
Sec/Support/Clerical	94	80	76
Student	360	332	309
TOTAL	4,945	5,050	5,020

CHAPTER	'95 Average	'96 Average	'97 Average
Alberta	3	5	5
Alaska	10	10	10
Alabama	108	113	122
Arkansas	115	94	85
Arizona	175	177	177
British Columbia	35	32	29
Colorado	81	89	85
Dakotas	35	36	36
DC/Maryland	169	159	140
Florida	200	190	199
Georgia	88	94	99
Hawaii	16	18	18
Iowa	37	35	33
Illinois	279	323	320
Indiana	67	71	76
Kansas	43	43	44
Kentucky	72	80	78
Louisiana	48	50	52
Manitoba	10	12	11
Michigan	184	196	201
Minnesota	61	57	63
Missouri	64	92	88
Mississippi	80	85	78
North Carolina	98	98	102
Northeast	399	393	394
New Jersey	98	94	92
Nebraska	38	37	32
New Mexico	52	47	44
No. California	191	181	165
No. Rockies	36	35	41
New York	366	351	357
Ohio	160	167	163
Oklahoma	96	89	89
Ontario	128	149	143
Oregon	68	63	60
Penn/Delaware	257	253	254
South Carolina	41	49	53

So. California	158	166	158
Tennessee	92	89	86
Texas	352	341	343
Utah	44	46	46
Virginia	89	89	81
Washington	71	75	77
Wisconsin	76	86	85
West Virginia*	no data	no data	33

ew Chapter

1997 ORIENTATION AND MOBILITY CERTIFICATIONS

INITIAL PROFESSIONAL

ckerman, Denise
 len, Ann
 ndrosky, Tonya
 ashore, Lori
 ennett, L. Michelle
 llings, Debra
 schoff, Amy
 ackman, Thomas
 onsu-Wiafe, Agyeiwa
 owers, Kent
 yd, Trina
 otzman, Denise
 uni, Emily
 uss, James
 cceres, Lohren
 annistraro, Kristin
 andler, Trecia
 ang, Chien-Huey
 lapecka, Karen
 owning, Carrie
 ristian, Gayna
 lston, Shirley
 oft, Jo
 ouch, Michele
 uz-Perez, Grace
 rry, Jill
 hm, Stanley
 y, Janice
 vico, Robert
 urning, Annetta
 pass, Mary
 gerton, Amy
 wards, Cindy
 wards, Jennifer
 sing, Constance
 elby, Rochelle

Fazzi, Vincent
 Fehrenbach, Bonnie
 Feinbaum, Sarah
 Fellerman, Cynthia
 Ford, John
 Friedman, Susan
 Galloway, Paula
 Gaughan, Norah
 Genoe, Charles
 Gerhardt, Timothy
 Gerrard-Williams, Pam
 Gilmore, James
 Glackin, Michael
 Glenn, Laura
 Goetz, Lynda
 Good, Gretchen
 Graham, Michael
 Haase, Julie
 Hall, Elizabeth
 Hargrove, Sharon
 Hayes, Michael
 Henzi, David
 Hickerson, Candace
 Holland, Angela
 Hunt, Sherri
 Jaeger, Jennifer
 Johnson, Catherine
 Johnson, Tony
 Jones, Lori
 Judd, James
 Kalin, Ruth
 Kaminski, Jill
 Kane, Kevin
 Kearney, Betty
 Kelly, Patricia
 Kish, Charles
 Klein, Trisha

Koch, Judith
 Kopecky, Jeanne-Marie
 Langley, Scott
 Laubner, Maryanne
 Lauer, Kimberly
 Lawrence, Kathleen
 Lebbie, Maybelle
 Leng, Rebecca
 Liu, Judy
 Lyon, Gayle
 Maddox, Joyce
 Mahan, Anita
 Mason, Jon
 Mason, Loana
 McCune, Deborah
 Meyer, Scott
 Miller, Deborah
 Miller, Nancy
 Moeller, Judith
 Moog, Carol
 Morelos-Gutierrez, Eileen
 Mullen, Edward
 Nannen, Leann
 Nicklawske, Mary
 Ning, Ye
 Oddis, Ramon, Jr.
 Padbury, Jill
 Patten, David
 Perry, Beth Ramella
 Peternel, Wayne
 Petro, Angela
 Pisipati, Sudhakar
 Pitcher, Julia
 Plesniar, Jadwiga
 Rademaker, Andrew
 Rectenwald, Rachelle
 Rickard, Rachel

Riffe, Phillip
Riley, Elizabeth
Roshon, Kirsten
Roth, Kim
Rower, Deborah
Runk, Brian
Scheffers, Wendy
Schmunk, Jon
Schnedler, Leslie
Schultz, Shawn
Sehnert, Deborah
Sellers, Bethani
Shaw, Eric
Shepherd, Becky
Shermer, Aundrayah
Simons, Heather

RENEWABLE

Abbott, Elena
Adair, Cindy
Adams, Elizabeth
Alarie, Raymond
Babcock, Susan
Baldwin, Douglas
Ball, George
Bason, Janie
Boothe, Carol
Bormann, Douglas
Bowen, Jill
Bradley, Susan
Brewer, Janet Dale
Brinkmann, Diane
Brooks-Knisley, Paula
Brusich, Wendy
Burke, Kelly
Cable, Kathryn
Camerlin, Elizabeth
Caudle, Christie
Chudeusz, Jan
Churchwell, Calvin
Clark, Harvey
Cleveland, Marybeth
Cook, Nancy
Crisp, Deborah
Dal Poggetto, Peter
Deaver, Kathleen
Dickson, Amy
Eaton, Mary
Ehresman, Paul
Faust-Jones, Shelly
Flores, Betty
Gense, D. Jay

Slater, Nancy
Slivka, Shawn
Smith, Brian
Smith, Kristina
Snulligan, Danita
Soriano, Mary
Staren, John
Stecher, Sunni
Stenzel, Marcus
Stokes, Phyllis
Stolhand, Melva
Stover, Sheree
Stringfield, Jessica
Sundell, Donald
Swafford, Janie
Teats, Rae

Gense, Marilyn
Glaser, Idell
Greenwald, Deborah
Griffin-Shirley, Nora
Gunderman, Phyllis
Haneline, Rod
Hannum, John
Hansen, Diane
Harris-Strapko, Barbara
Hawkins, Bil
Hogan, Dennis
Holmes, Judith
Hotta, Carol
Huang, Jinsong
Hudson, Pam
Humble, Rod
Johnson, Alison
Kelly, John
Kemp, Martha
Khalil, Farouk
Koester, Laura
Kosior, Paula
Kotvok, Frances
Laderman, Denice
Langham, Thomas
Lapaglia, Rosemary
Leggett, Sylvia
Liu, Tiehan
Marx, Melvin, IV
Matusoff, Connie
McCormack, Amy
McCuaig, Alan
McHugh, B. Elaine
McJannet, Douglas
Meagher, Marcia

Tierney, Jennifer
Travland, Tara
Utle, Shay
Ver Meulen, Amy
Vollemans, Marie
Wagner, Courtney
Wagschal, Shari
Westerberg, Karen
White, Karl
Williams, Carole
Wilson, Emma
Wilson, Jeanna
Yale, Kathy
Yanuck, Rachelle
Zermeno, Alicia
Zumpfe, Kristin

Miller, Terry
Molenda, Margaret
Morgan, Lisa
Morrison, Colleen
Negrich, Joel
O'Donnell, Betsy
Olson, Paul
Ormerod, Amy
Pearson, Vicki
Portonova, Ruth
Price, Amy
Putt, Kathleen
Quintana, Cecelia
Reed-Brown, Cynthia
Rife, Dorinda
Riseng, Scott
Rowe, Elizabeth
Rudd, Bruce
Sacco, Theresa
Sarlouis, Sharon
Savage, Robert
Schaper, Miriam
Scheirer, Nancy
Secrist, Suzanne
Sellberg, Lorna
Shon, Kyo
Smiarowski, Sam
Smith, Daniel
Smith, Sharon
Strader, James
Summers, Karen
Tiensvold, Valerie
Tolhurst, Valerie
Vrba, Anna
Waida, Christie

Wang, Wei
West, Shawn

Williams, Connie

Yeager, Paul
Yokel, Beth

RENEWABLE CANADIAN O&M

Moar, Margaret

Stevenson, John

ELECTRONIC TRAVEL AIDS

Bischoff, Amy
Burke, Kelly
Cook, Nancy
Feinbaum, Sarah
Flores, Betty
Ford, John
Hannum, John

Hawkins, Bil
James, Judd
Laderman, Denice
Leggett, Sylvia
Meagher, Marcia
Portonova, Ruth
Riffe, Phillip
Sacco, Theresa

Shepherd, Becky
Smith, Sharon
Stokes, Phyllis
Ver Meulen, Amy
Waida, Christie
Williams, Carole
Williams, Connie
Zermeno, Alicia

O&M ASSISTANT - INITIAL

Maldonado, Jeanette

Wild, Susan

O&M ASSISTANT - RENEWABLE

Cassidy, John

Witter, David

OMA TRAINER/
SUPERVISOR - INITIAL

Anderson, Mary Jane
Blanding-Madison, Shirley
Clary, Paul

Cleveland, Marybeth
Flick, Sonya
Harris-Strapko, Barbara
Hjorth, Kendra
Kemp, Martha

Pickett, Beal
Purchis, Laura
Schnedler, Leslie
Wright, Danielle

OMA TRAINER/SUPERVISOR - RENEWABLE

Stevenson, John

1997 REHABILITATION TEACHER CERTIFICATIONS

INITIAL "AA"

Bennett, Nancy
Bernath, Eric
Bruin, Ann
Clarkson, Rachel
Cole, Gail
Dalton, Susan
Davis, Barbara
Delor, E. Louanne
Dupree, Carol
Estrella, Diana
Gares, Elida
Gieske, Darcy
Goodemote, Suzanne
Hawkins, Belinda
Hill, Karyn
Johnson, Amy
Johnson, Tony

Kresmer, Lynn
Langley, Scott
Maresh, Susan
Michel, Pura
Mosser, Stanley
Newell, Gerald, Jr.
Peel, Christie
Pennell, Ashley
Richesin, Cheryl
Riley, Michael
Robinson, Ralph
Rodzielowicz, Gloria
Schloemer, Karrie
Schmidt, Shari
Simmons, Norine
Simon, Leanore
Solko, Deborah
Stankiewicz, Marian
Taylor, Roxanne

Vredenburg, Crystal
Wichner, Barbara
Yob, Theresa

INITIAL "A"

Been, Annie
Blackwell, Stacy
Bryan, Jackie
Dragona, Tulia
Easley, Joey
Hill, Sandra
Martinez, Irene
McWilliams, Ginny
Peavy, Nancy
Register, Linda
Talley, Lou

RENEWABLE

Abror, Frank
Baumgartner, Helen
Camerlin, Elizabeth
Campbell, Nancy
Cavazos, Elizabeth
Cohen, Nancy
Dahm, Stanley
Dzialo, Monica

Eaton, Carol
Fowler, Celia
Frazier, Michele
Gervasoni, Edward
Hart, Susan
Heckman, Kay
Hensley, Mike
Hevener, Katherine
McKenna, Karen

Moos, Kathy
Nishiyachi, Etsuro
Pekarski, Anna
Ryan, Diane
Schermer, Judy
Search, David
Smith, Judith
Spong-Stepka, Kimberly
Tucker, Laurel

1997 TEACHER OF THE VISUALLY IMPAIRED CERTIFICATIONSINITIAL PROFESSIONAL

Boubin, Olda
Clark, Chantell
Keller, Marcia
Mason, Loana
Numkena, Vicki
Shankar, Ganga
Sonksen, Mary
Spann, Eddie

ADVANCED

PROFESSIONAL
Zeppuhar, Mary Ellen

RENEWABLE

Foster, Mattie
Hagen, Lisa
Katzen, Sheryl
Kneebone, Ted

Miller, Diane
Murphy, Jean
Payne, Sandra
Peters, Marla
Putnam, Sandra
Simmons, Martha
Thompson, Rosie

1997 LOW VISION THERAPIST CERTIFICATIONSINITIAL

Barber, Ann
Bozeman, Laura
Clark, Harvey
Day, Janice

Flax, Marshall
Gerritsen, Bryan
Kimbrough, Susan
O'Donnell, Betsy
Pitt, B. Kay

Smith, Janice
Walker, Brad
Watson, Gale

ASSOCIATION FOR EDUCATION AND REHABILITATION OF THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED-NATIONAL OFFICE

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

Year ended December 31,

				1997	1996
	UNRESTRICTED	TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED	PERMANENTLY RESTRICTED	TOTAL	COMPARATIVE TOTAL
Support and revenue:					
Membership dues	\$ 362,506	\$	\$	\$ 362,506	\$ 353,676
Investment income	301,706	926		302,632	138,923
Conference				-	218,345
Professional development	12,913			12,913	-
Publications	18,382			18,382	16,211
Contributions	7,012		75	7,087	18,072
Certification fees	27,924			27,924	22,347
Other	11,254			11,254	26,027
Net assets released from restrictions:					
Satisfaction of donor restrictions				-	-
Total support and revenue	741,697	926	75	742,698	793,601
Expenses:					
Program services					
Member activities	339,073			339,073	291,027
Public Education - Advocacy-Liaison	43,251			43,251	45,316
Professional Development	43,213			43,213	206,135
Supporting services					
Management and general	92,223			92,223	111,914
Governance	70,502			70,502	82,503
	575,688			575,688	736,895
Increase in net assets	\$ 166,009	\$ 926	\$ 75	\$ 167,010	\$ 56,706

ASSOCIATION FOR EDUCATION AND REHABILITATION OF THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED-NATIONAL OFFICE

BALANCE SHEET

December 31,

	UNRESTRICTED	TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED	PERMANENTLY RESTRICTED	1997 <u>TOTAL</u>	1996 COMPARATIVE <u>TOTAL</u>
Assets					
Current assets:					
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 287,093	\$ 9,408	\$	\$ 296,501	\$ 241,436
Certificates of deposit	-	12,085	18,675	30,760	59,134
Accounts receivable	57,839			57,839	31,481
Accrued interest receivable	18,159			18,159	27,933
Prepaid expenses	19,985			19,985	13,489
Deferred rebate expense	33,986			33,986	35,470
Interfund receivable	320			320	320
Total current assets	417,382	21,493	18,675	457,550	409,263
Investments	2,251,667	-	-	2,251,667	2,073,116
Property and equipment:					
Office furniture and equipment	136,977			136,977	133,555
Accumulated depreciation	(105,592)			(105,592)	(90,186)
	31,385	-	-	31,385	43,369
Other assets:					
Deposit	1,366	-	-	1,366	1,366
	\$ 2,701,800	\$ 21,493	\$ 18,675	\$ 2,741,968	\$ 2,527,114

Liabilities and Fund Balances

Current liabilities:

Obligation under capital lease	\$ 3,631	\$	\$	\$ 3,631	\$ 3,343
Accounts payable	126,171			126,171	61,995
Accrued expenses	3,668			3,668	5,224
Deferred revenue:					
Membership dues	187,436			187,436	198,790
Seminars				-	78
Interfund payable	320			320	320
Total current liabilities	321,226	-	-	321,226	269,750

Long-term liabilities:

Obligation under capital lease, net of current portion	8,970	-	-	8,970	12,602
Net assets	2,371,604	21,493	18,675	2,411,772	2,244,762

\$ 2,701,800	\$ 21,493	\$ 18,675	\$ 2,741,968	\$ 2,527,114
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AER Member Notes...

Congratulations to AER member **Rebecca Coakley** on her new post as a Program Specialist for the Children's Vision Rehabilitation Project at the West Virginia University Eye Center. ■

The New York State Rehabilitation Teachers bestowed the prestigious Rehabilitation Teacher of the Year honor upon AER member **Jane Casey**. Jane is with the Blind Association of Western New York. ■

Congratulations to **Madelyn Jones**, an AER member from Tuscaloosa, AL, on her retirement after 39 years in the field of providing services to the blind and visually impaired. ■

Corporate AER member, **American Foundation for the Blind**, announces the appointment of **Frank Cermak** as vice president, AFB Press, the publishing arm of AFB.

In addition, AFB announces that **Virginia Smith Boyce**, retired executive director of the National Society to Prevent Blindness (now Prevent Blindness America), and **Michael M. Maney**, a partner in the law firm of Sullivan & Cromwell and former

chairperson of AFB, will receive AFB's 1998 Migel Medals. The Migel Medal honors professionals and volunteers whose dedication and achievements have significantly improved the lives of people who are blind or visually impaired. ■

National Industries for the Blind, an AER corporate member, was named as one of five finalists in the "Role Model Organization" category of the SAP/Stevie Wonder Vision Awards program. NIB was recognized for the quality of jobs it develops for people who are blind in partnership with the Federal government, private-sector corporations, and NIB-associated agencies throughout the country. ■

The **American Council of the Blind** is pleased to announce that **Charles Crawford** will serve as the new Executive Director of ACB. Charlie is the current Commissioner for the Blind from the State of Massachusetts. ■

Congratulations to AER member **Bill McGeachy** for being selected as the recipient of the Outstanding Related Service Provider Award from the Principals of Schools for the Blind. ■

Best wishes for a happy and healthy retirement goes out to AER member **Louise Becker** from Gooding, ID, after 32 years as a VI teacher. ■

In Memoriam...

AER regrets to report that **Ray Melhoff** passed away June 13, 1998, after a long illness. At the time of his death, he was working for the Rehabilitation Services Administration in Washington, DC. In July, AER's Division 15 - Division on Aging recognized Ray for his contributions to the field by posthumously awarding him with the Division XV Award. ■

Special Thanks!

A very special thank you goes out to the following members for their generous contributions to AER's MacFarland Stipend Fund, Lowenfeld Publications Fund, and General Operating Fund:

★ **Rachel Berg (MA)**

★ **Mary Perkins Brown (VA)**

★ **Robert Zancanella (UT)**

Thank you all for helping us to support those who provide services to people with visual impairments. ■



Mark Your Calendars!

October 8-9, 1998 - AER Dakotas Chapter Annual Meeting, Grand Forks, ND. Contact: Marie Topp (701) 298-4414; e-mail: mtopp@compuserve.com. ■

October 9-10, 1998 - Oregon AER Conference, Diamond Lake Resort, Oregon. Contact: Lisette Ewing (541) 683-5897; e-mail doczwing@aol.com. ■

October 14-16, 1998 - AER Northern Rockies Chapter Annual Conference, Great Falls Best Western Ponderosa Inn, Great Falls, MT. Contact: Ken McCulloch (208) 343-6168; krmac@rmci.net. ■

October 14-16, 1998 - National Conference on Disability & Health, "Building Bridges for Science & Consumers," The Hyatt Regency Dallas Fort Worth Airport, Dallas, TX. Contact: Jocelyn Mitchell, Visions USA (404) 880-0006 ext. 248. ■

October 16-18, 1998 - Pacific NW AER Fall Retreat, Sleeping Lady Resort, Leavenworth, WA. Contact: Judy Koch (360) 696-6321 ext. 101. ■

October 25-28, 1998 - New York State AER 1998 Annual Conference, "Seasons of Change: ENVISION Your Future," Utica, NY. Contact: John Kelly, COMS, 25 Main Street #9, Garnerville, NY 10923; e-mail jkellyinom@msn.com. ■

October 29-30, 1998 - Arizona AER Annual State Conference, Westward Look Resort, Tucson, AZ. Contact: Sandra Stirnweis (602) 256-0854. ■

November 4-6, 1998 - Ohio AER Chapter State Conference, Columbus, OH. Contact: Judy Cernkovich, Wood County Educational Service Center, 1 Courthouse Sq., Bowling Green, OH 43402-1471; e-mail: wc_jrc@mavca.ohio.gov. ■

November 5-6, 1998 - Utah AER Annual Conference, Salt Lake City, UT. Contact: Becky Andrews (801) 585-7124. ■

November 11-13, 1998 - NE/AER Annual Conference, North Conway, New Hampshire. "Cycling Through Life" Contact: Kathy Downes at S.E.R.E.S.C., 11 Peabody Rd, Derry, NH 03038; (603) 434-0556. (Registration forms are available and can be downloaded from AER's website at www.aerbvi.org) ■

November 12-14, 1998 - Michigan AER Annual Conference, Shanty Creek Resort, Bellaire, MI. Contact: Trudy Carlson (810) 364-8990 ext. 219. ■

December 7-9, 1998 - AER Florida Chapter Annual Conference, St. Petersburg, FL. Contact: Steve Barrett e-mail sbarrett2@juno.com. ■

February 21-28, 1999 - 24th Annual Ski for Light, Hotel Captain Cook, Anchorage, Alaska. More than 100 blind and visually impaired people will enjoy a week filled with cross-country skiing, interesting apres ski activities, good food and more. Applications must be submitted by November 1, 1998. Contact: Larry Showalter, 15002 N.E. 9th Place, Bellevue, WA 98007; (425) 644-5663 or e-mail larry@sfl.org or download the application from the Ski for Light home page at www.sfl.org. ■

March 5-7, 1999 - 13th Josephine L. Taylor Leadership Institute, Washington, DC. Contact: Alberta Orr (212) 502-7634; e-mail alorr@afb.net. ■

March 20-22, 1999 - SOMA Conference, Atlanta, GA. Contact: Belen Hickman (404) 876-2636; fax (404) 872-5255. ■

April 22-24, 1999 - Texas AER Chapter Meeting - Austin, TX. Contact: Nora Griffin-Shirley (806) 742-2345; e-mail ibngs@ttacs.ttu.edu. ■

May 6-7, 1999 - AER Arkansas Chapter Meeting. Contact: Janie Humphries (501) 296-1815; e-mail jhumphries@asb.k12.ar.us. ■

May 6-9, 1999 - Canadian Vision Teachers Conference. Contact: David Miller (902) 424-8539; fax: (902) 424-0543. ■

July 12-16, 1999 - Vision '99 Triennial International Conference on Low Vision, Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, NY. Contact (800) 829-0500. ■

July 21-23, 1999 - Rehabilitation Teaching Conference, "Rehabilitation Teaching The Next Century," Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI. Contact: Lisa-Ann Soucy (914) 761-3221. ■

November 11-14, 1999 - 4th Biennial "Getting in Touch with Literacy" Conference, San Francisco, CA. Contact: Stephen Goodman, CA School for the Blind, (510) 794-3800 ext. 210. ■

July 14-18, 2000 -- AER 2000 International Conference, Adams Mark Hotel, Denver, Colorado. Additional details to follow. ■

July 17-21, 2002 - AER International Conference, Westin Harbour Castle, Toronto, Canada. Additional details to follow. ■

1998 AER Low Vision Therapist Certification Exam Schedule

Please note the following dates of upcoming Division 7 - Low Vision Therapist Certification Examinations. In order to take the exam, you must preregister and complete the certification application process by the cutoff dates indicated below. To obtain certification applications and additional information, please contact AER at 703-823-9690.

October 17, 1998 - Veterans Administration, Birmingham, AL, 10:00 AM to 11:30 AM. Must register and complete the certification application process by October 2, 1998.

November 14, 1998 - University of Houston, Houston, TX, 10:00 AM to 11:30 AM. Must register and complete the certification application process by October 30, 1998. ■

AER Chapter Presidents

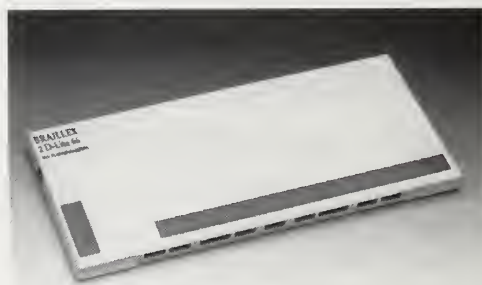
Alabama	Joyce Alexander
Alaska	Lezlie Shull
Arizona	Patricia Arnold
Arkansas	Janie Humphries
British Columbia	Elaine Todd
Colorado	Bill Muir
Dakotas	Marie Topp
DC/Maryland	Jenny Westman-Minnig
Florida	Steve Barrett
Georgia	Frances Mary D'Andrea
Hawaii	Sam Fisk
Illinois	Trudy Diepholz
Indiana	Don Koors
Iowa	Sherri Lyle
Kansas	Madeline Burkindine
Kentucky	Catherine Johnson
Louisiana	Warren Figueriredo
Manitoba	Freya Martinot
Michigan	Laura White
Minnesota	Jean Martin
Mississippi	Alice Moreland
Missouri	Mary Lynne Dolembro

Nebraska	Karen Barrett
New Jersey	Annemarie Cooke
New Mexico	Cecelia Quintana
New York	Anne Hersee
North Carolina	Sandra DeLuca
Northeast	Margaret Cleary
Northern California	Barbara Maher
Northern Rockies	Mary Rich-Williams
Ohio	Marianne Mundy
Oklahoma	Julie Brantley
Ontario	Wendy Nichols
Oregon	Lisette Ewing
Pacific Northwest	Judy Koch
Penn-Del	Rosemary Holecki
South Carolina	Scott Meehan
Southern California	Eileen Slutsky
Tennessee	Laura Parchman
Texas	Nora Griffin-Shirley
Utah	Becky Andrews
Virginia	Jean Schipke
West Virginia	Judy Hurst
Wisconsin	Marshall Flax

Imagine Visualizing a Computer Screen Top to Bottom. STOP IMAGINING

Papenmeier leaves nothing to the imagination with their two dimensional braille display. No longer imagining your cursors location on a computer screen. Know where the page begins and where the page ends and the location of the information in between.

Papenmeiers 2 dimensional braille displays give blind computer users easy access to the computer screen. A sighted computer user has access to information on a computers screen vertically as well as horizontally. Papenmeiers 2 dimensional braille displays give blind users a conventional 40 or 80 cell Braille display as well as a second vertical display with 4 dots per line, which show an extensive status of the complete computer screen. No more guesswork. Sighted Electronics makes this innovative product available to you.



Sighted Electronics Markets A Full Range Of Braille Embossers

From the low cost, durable, portable, Porta Thiel Braille Embosser, or it's Interpoint version. Weighing in at under 10 pounds with a carry handle incorporated into its design the Porta Thiel is the most portable, affordable, embosser available. Starting at under \$2000 for the single side version and at \$2835 for an interpoint. The portable "Porta Thiel" is the perfect solution for the mobile active student or professional who needs to be able to access braille at home, work, or on the go.

For speed with proven reliability at an affordable price, the Index Basic and Everest are the latest innovative designs in interpoint braille. The re-designed Everest's paper feed system gives braille users the ability to buy card stock paper at the local office supply store. If the conventional tractor feed system is what you want the Basic S or Basic D is efficiency at about 300 pages per hour. Thiel commercial grade, production Braille Embossers, the Bax 10 at 800 interpoint pages of braille per hour or the Impacto at 600 interpoint pages per hour.

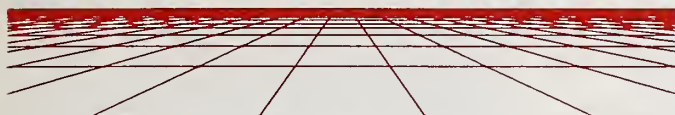
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Across the Spectrum



**An information exchange focusing on literature
which references blindness or low vision**

Submitted by: Greg Goodrich

Journal Reference: *Neuropediatrics* 29 (1998) pp. 80-88

Article: "Impaired Visual Perceptual Performance on an Object Recognition Task in Children with Cerebral Visual Impairment"

Authors: P. Stiers, P. DeCock, E. Vandenbusschue

Reprint requests to: Peter Stiers, Laboratorim voor Neuropsychologie, Katolieke Universiteit Leuven, Campus Gasthuisberg, Herestraat 49, B-3000 Leuven, Belgium■

Submitted by: Greg Goodrich

Journal Reference: *The Occupational Therapy Journal of Research*, Fall 1997, Vol. 17, No. 4, pp. 264-279

Article: "Visual Scanning Patterns in an Adult Chinese Population: Preliminary Normative Data"

Authors: Diedre R. Dawson, Carolyn Tanner-Cohen

Reprint requests to: Diedre R. Dawson, Department of Occupational Therapy, University of Toronto■

Submitted by: Greg Goodrich

Journal Reference: *International Journal of Geriatric Psychiatry*, Vol. 13 (1998), pp. 172-176

Article: "The Recognition and Treatment of Depression in Older People in Primary Care"

Authors: M.J. Crawford, M. Prince, P. Menezes, and A.H. Mann

Reprint requests to: Dr. M.J. Crawford, Section of Epidemiology and General Practice, Institute of Psychiatry, De Crespigny Park, Denmark Hill, London SE5 8AZ, UK■

Submitted by: Greg Goodrich

Journal Reference: *Developmental Medicine & Child Neurology* 1998, 40, pp. 302-309

Article: "Visual Outcome at 5 Years of Newborn Infants at Risk of Cerebral Visual Impairment"

Authors: Jackie van Hofvan Duin, MD, PhD, Giovanni Cioni, MD, Barbara Bertuccelli, Barbara Fazzi, MD, Carlo Romano, MD, Antonio Boldrini, MD

Reprint requests to: Giovanni Cioni, Stella Maris Scientific Institute - INPE University of Pisa, I-56018 Calambrone, Pisa, Italy■

Submitted by: Greg Goodrich

Journal Reference: *Disability Statistics Abstract*, Number 20, March 1998

Article: "Vocational Rehabilitation in the United States"

Author: H. Stephen Kaye

Reprint requests to: U.S. Department of Education, National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR), Washington, DC 20202■



RE:sources

From: Opus Technologies

Opus Technologies announces the publication of a new edition of "How to Read Braille Music" by Bettye Krolick. The book is designed to be both a learning tool and a continuing resource for the reader of braille music. It contains the music symbols most frequently encountered in elementary to intermediate level music, with concise explanations of their use. Available in print, braille, and interactive multimedia CD-ROM. Price is \$12.95 for print; \$19.95 for braille; \$79 for

CD-ROM. Contact: Opus Technologies (619) 538-9401 or e-mail opus@opustec.com.■

From: Orientation and Mobility Rehabilitation Services, Inc.

New O&M instructor shirts are now available. They have the International Sign of Access and the Winged Long Cane in front along with words "Orientation and Mobility" in print and in braille; the back has the International Sign of Blindness with the word "Instructor" in print and in braille. The blue and red ink used is puff and reflective. T-shirts are \$18; sweatshirts are \$30. Contact: Robert Lessne, Ph.D., (305) 271-0012; fax (305) 273-1221; e-mail ergobobl@aol.com.■



Yesterday's News

by Gregory Goodrich

The more things change, the more they stay the same...

"Our world, as we know it today, is new. It is in revolutionary ferment. Its form is that of new people in an expanding population; new and complex social structures; and therefore, rising needs for more and better services for the disabled and the disadvantaged.

Our world is new because of the extent and tempo of change that characterizes our time. There is almost no way to compare the present with any other period of history. Man, in the past, had time to study and understand his environment. He had time deliberately and methodically to develop solutions to his problems. But the great social and political problems that appear to be closing in on us today seem to have no precedents. And today, time is of the essence.

To deal with the kinds of problems facing us now, our society needs men and women who think creatively. We need leaders, doers, managers, scientists — individuals who respect tradition, but who also are unafraid to question it. There is a particular need for such qualities among those who shape our social programs."

from: Mary E. Switzer (1968). "The Social and Rehabilitation Service — Its Philosophy and Function." *AAWB Blindness Annual*, page 7. ■

New Digital Audio Technology from NLS

The National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS), Library of Congress, has assigned a committee to oversee the development of a new digital audio technology for America's talking-book program.

"The Library of Congress now embarks upon its fourth major technological advance in the provision of reading materials for blind and physically handicapped people," according to Frank Kurt Cylke, NLS director. "The digital talking book will be the Library's twenty-first century technology."

The project director, Brad Kormann, said, "It is important to remember that his new technology represents a complex and total replacement of an existing national infrastructure of playback equipment and recorded book collections valued at more than \$200 million. It is vital to the success of this cooperative program that appropriate attention be given to technological design that represents the broadest needs of program patrons. It was for this reason that NLS initiated the development of a national digital talking-book standard through the National Information Standards Organization (NISO)."

The NLS has issued a 72 page report in July 1998, "Digital Talking Books: Planning for the Future," which outlines both the scope of activity and steps required to develop a digital talking-book system. Reports are available in braille, large print, on recorded cassette, and on computer disk from the Reference Section, National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, Library of Congress, Washington, DC 20542. ■

COMPANION:

A Step Forward in Talking Notetakers



Within seconds of turning on your Companion you can:

- take notes
- write reports
- schedule appointments
- set alarms
- perform scientific calculations
- collect & send e-mail
- search the internet
- maintain address lists
- format and transcribe braille documents
- check phone numbers
- arrange your day
- organize your life



A COMPLETE PACKAGE:

The Companion comes standard with the following: 4MB ATA flash memory card, headphones, AC adapter, soft carry case and strap, rechargeable battery pack, backup batteries. Documentation in print, audio tape and disc, Braille summary.

You'll discover the difference at once. A versatile, optional LCD screen extends the communication potential of HumanWare's new personal organizer, Braille Companion, making it the the best talking notetaker for people who write in braille.

This new link expands the interaction between blind and sighted people:

- Classroom teachers now can participate more fully in their students' learning processes.
- Sighted parents can assist with schoolwork and special projects by reading print on the screen as their children write in braille.

With the LCD screen, this Companion provides visual verification of braille input by displaying print that is translated instantly from Grade Two braille. And only Braille Companion gives you both forward and back translators as standard features.

Braille Companion's ergonomic braille keyboard is amazingly comfortable to use. For people who prefer to use a standard PC-type keyboard, the Keynote Companion provides the same user-friendly software, Keysoft, as Braille Companion.

As personal organizers, Companions can't be beat. Keysoft's intuitive, full-featured word processor lets you easily create, edit and print documents of any size. Additionally, Keysoft gives you a chronological diary, scheduler with auditory reminders, scientific calculator, spell checker, address list manager and communications package. This powerful software handles anything from sorting a list to mail merge to auto-dial. On-line, context-sensitive help is available at all times.

HumanWare's Companion talking notetakers bring innovative features to the realm of written communication. Braille Companion's optional LCD screen takes the idea one big step further.

For information on the Braille Companion or Keynote Companion notetakers, call (800) 722-3393 or visit our web site: www.humanware.com/E/E-frm.html

HumanWare 

*... assistive technology for people
with visual and learning difficulties*

AERwaves...

by Denise M. Rozell, Executive Director

As a lifelong baseball fan, I have been fascinated this year to watch the rebirth of the ultimate team sport through the actions of two individuals chasing a dream. It reminds me of how much the AER staff works together as a team. So, let me introduce the AER staff team to you, and outline the positions they play. In addition to me, the team's manager and coach, first at bat is **Carolyn Sharp**. Carolyn is the friendly voice you hear answer the phone when you call AER. She is a wealth of information, and loves to share it with people. She's here to provide you with brochures, take your membership renewal or orders over the phone, or put you in touch with your AER Chapter President or Division Chair. She also fields all of the referral questions from nonmembers and serves as cheerleader and staff support. Next on deck is **Kim Gettings**, who is the person you want for anything related to your individual membership, as she is in charge of our membership data base. She is the person responsible for producing the reminder invoices you receive when your membership is about to expire and is the one into whose hands your checks pass when you renew. In addition, Kim manages the production of AER's membership labels, lists, cards and statistical reports. **Deborah Neal**, the newest member of the AER team, is the money person. As the staff accountant, Debbie is in the dugout sending out Chapter rebate checks and Division fund balances, as well as paying our bills and keeping us financially healthy. She also pinch-hits as order processor for publications and logo items. Finally, Debbie is the person in charge of the physical well being of the office from ordering supplies to making sure all the office machines work without a hitch. **Lorna Frazier-Lindsey**, the Assistant Director, also plays numerous positions on our team. On first, she is the editor of *AER Report* and *Job Exchange*. In the outfield, she oversees the certification process...reviewing applications, serving as liaison to the committees, and fielding your questions. Behind home plate, she manages our website and production of AER publications, and works with Chapters and Divisions to coordinate the membership marketing and retention efforts. *WHEW!!* I have often said that one of the best things I have found at AER has been the tremendous team of people that you have working for you. I hope that, whether you have called or e-mailed the office or just met them here for the very first time, you feel the same! Your team is ready....*LET'S PLAY BALL!!!* ■



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AER REPORT

Volume 15, No. 6

December 1998

Legislative Wrap Up

by Denise Rozell

The 105th Congress finally adjourned on October 21, 1998. Although many in the media are saying that it was a "do nothing" Congress preoccupied with other "affairs," for the disability community there were actually a number of victories, some losses and some hints of things to come. Before it fades into history, let's review some of the outcomes and the status of various proposals.

Reauthorization of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA): One of the biggest successes of the 105th Congress was the passage of the IDEA reauthorization in June 1997. There were many positive additions and clarifications for children who are blind or visually impaired (braille, assistive technology, O&M, etc.). (See *AER Report*, Aug. 1997) Draft regulations on Part B, the State Grant section which includes the IEP process, were issued in October 1997. There is some excellent regulatory language in the draft regs including, for the first time, a federal regulatory definition of O&M. Unfortunately, no final regulations have yet been issued. Congress, in its Omnibus Budget Act passed immediately before adjournment, included a requirement that the Department of Education issue the new regulations by December 1, 1998. Whether that happens, and what will happen if the regulations are not issued by then, remains to be seen.

(Continued on Page 4)

AER Offers Nemeth Code Publications

At its October meeting, the AER Board of Directors unanimously accepted a recommendation from the AER Publications Committee to republish two nemeth code publications.

The first publication, developed by Gaylen Kapperman, Toni Heinze and Jodi Sticken, is a 245 page book entitled Strategies for Developing Mathematics Skills in Students Who Use Braille. It covers such topics as Teaching Mathematical Concepts, Basic Number Facts and Operations, Advanced Mathematics, Teaching Nemeth Code, Calculation Tools and Aids, Tactile Displays and Graphics, Collaborative and Inclusive Strategies, spoken Mathematics, along with an extensive appendix of reference material.

The second is the Computerized Nemeth Code Tutor, developed by Gaylen Kapperman, Jim Henry, Mario Cortesi, Toni Heinze, and Jodi Sticken. The Tutor is an instruction booklet along with software, which was developed as part of the project, Computer-assisted Instruction for Learning the Code of Braille Mathematics, and was supported by a grant from the U.S. Department of Education. It is designed to provide an effective vehicle through which sighted persons who work with blind students can hone their skills in Nemeth Code. (Note: The software requires Microsoft Windows 3.1 or Windows 95.)

In a letter to the AER Board recommending the republication of these items, Sandra Lewis, Chair of the AER Publications Committee, said, "It is the opinion of the AER Publications Committee that both items fill a current gap in the literature of the field."

Orders are currently being accepted, and fulfillment is scheduled for mid-January. The price of the Strategies book is \$20; the price of the Tutor is \$11; and the discounted price for both publications is \$25 (U.S. funds only; additional shipping charges apply on Canadian and overseas orders). For order information, please contact the AER office. ■

Inside This Issue:

- ✓ Call for Chapters to Host 2004 International Conference
- ✓ Division Changes - Report from the CDC
- ✓ Missouri School for the Blind Receives Honor
- ✓ RE:sources, Member Notes, and more!

Mission: To develop and promote professional excellence through support of those who provide services to people with visual impairments

From the President...

Special Note: The December 1998 "From the President" column is in the form of a pull out letter to the membership of AER. It can be found in the center of this *AER Report*.

Board Briefs

The 1998-2000 AER Board of Directors held its first meeting, October 24-25, 1998, in Alexandria, Virginia. The following is a synopsis of the items discussed and actions taken:

- AER's proposed budget for 1999 was presented and approved by the Board.
- The Board approved a policy to allow divisions to invest in Certificates of Deposit (CDs) and to retain the income from those CDs provided that (a) the division invest a minimum of \$5,000 and (b) the division, at the time of investing in the CD, have sufficient funds to cover likely expenses or a minimum remaining balance of \$5,000, whichever is greater.
- The Board directed staff to distribute a call for bids with various conference planners for the 2000 conference to be held in Denver.
- The President will establish a task force to evaluate the internal process of planning AER's conference program and to report back to the International Conference Committee with its findings.
- The Board approved the merger of Division 12 - Elementary Curriculum for Children and Division 13 - Secondary Curriculum for Children and a name change for Division 11 - Rehabilitation Teaching & Independent Living Skills. (Related article in the CDC Report on page 9.)
- The Board approved the placement of the AER Canadian Office at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, BC.
- The Board approved a motion that the Pacific Northwest Chapter of AER, previously known as the Washington Chapter, be officially recognized by its new name by the organization.
- A report on the planning for the 1999 AER-Lift Leadership Conference was presented, including announcement of the dates (April 9-11, 1999 in Austin, Texas) and a review of a draft agenda.

If you have any questions regarding these items or any other issues regarding the recent Board of Directors meeting, please contact Denise Rozell at the AER office. ■

AER Report is published six times a year as a membership service. Chapters, divisions, and individual members are encouraged to submit items of interest for publication to:

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www.aerbvi.org

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(Continued from Page 1)

Part C (The Infants and Toddlers Program — this used to be Part H) and Part D (the discretionary programs — this includes the personnel preparation programs) also have regulations waiting to be finalized, but they probably won't be out until after the Part B regulations are complete.

Despite the carefully drafted compromise that passed in June 1997, some Members of Congress have continued to try to amend IDEA during the year and a half since its enactment (even prior to its implementation date!). The attempted amendments, for the most part, focused on when and how children with disabilities can be disciplined, suspended or expelled from school, and whether children with disabilities held in adult prisons are entitled to IDEA services. At the close of Congress, none of these had passed! However, Congress is requiring a General Accounting Office (GAO) study to be completed by July 30, 1999, on discipline of students receiving IDEA services. Look for more on this in upcoming issues. Additional attempts to "open up" IDEA to these and other amendments on controversial issues are expected in the 106th Congress. We will need to be vigilant!

Reauthorization of the Rehabilitation Act: Another of the successes of the 105th Congress is passage of the reauthorization of the Rehabilitation Act this summer. (See *AER Report*, Oct. 1998) Again, this new law includes some very positive language for people who are blind or visually impaired and the professionals who serve them, including the continuation of the state option for a separate state agency for the blind, the continuation of the Title VII, Chapter 2 program of Independent Living for Older Blind Persons, the continuation of the Braille Literacy Projects, and the improvements to Section 508 requiring the federal government purchase accessible equipment. The Department of Education hopes to issue draft regulations for public comment sometime in the Spring. An Advisory Committee to advise the Access Board on accessibility standards for electronic and information technology used by the federal government has already been formed to help implement the changes to Section 508. A number of blindness organizations are represented on that panel.

Appropriations for Fiscal Year 1999: Before Congress went home, they completed the FY'99 Appropriations in one large, omnibus appropriations bill. Special education funding did very well with an increase to IDEA Part B funding (the money that goes to each state) of \$500 million. That is an 85% increase in IDEA funding over the past 3 years. Unfortunately, most of the discretionary programs, including personnel preparation, were level funded again this year. Vocational rehabilitation programs received a slight increase which included an increase to the Chapter 2, Title VII program from \$10.950 to \$11.169 million. This will not be enough to meet the \$13 million needed to "trigger" grants for every state. The Helen Keller National Center and The American Printing House for the Blind also received their requested increases.

Other Important Pieces of Legislation:

Transportation Equity Act: New language in the Act requires that transportation plans and projects funded under the Act must include consideration of installation, where appropriate, and maintenance of audible traffic signals and audible signs at street crossings.

Social Security Reform: The Work Incentives Improvement Act (known as "Kennedy/Jeffords") failed to pass in the 105th Congress. The bill had included: a "Ticket to Work" allowing covered individuals to receive rehabilitation services from private or state providers; a provision allowing individuals to continue on Medicaid for a period of time after beginning work; and a demonstration project where select individuals would lose cash benefits by \$1 for every \$2 they earn over a set amount (instead of the current \$1 for \$1 loss). It also included the first statutory interpretation of "personal assistance services" to include reader services and transportation to and from work. Some form of social security reform addressing work disincentives is assured to reappear in the 106th Congress. ■

W e l c o m e N e w M e m b e r s !



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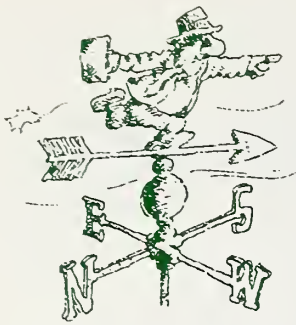
And, New Corporate Members...

Assistech, Inc. (MD)

See More Vision Aiding Products (NY)

AER's College and University List Updated

Over the years, AER has maintained a list of colleges and universities in the United States, Canada and internationally that offer courses in education and rehabilitation of people who are visually impaired, deafblind and multihandicapped. Although not all of the schools included on the list have met the university guidelines established by AER's divisions, the document is an excellent reference tools for those seeking to further their education in the field. A copy of the 1998 updated list is available free of charge from AER's website at www.aerbvi.org (refer to the certification page on the site) or by contacting the AER office at (703) 823-9690 or e-mail your request to Carolyn Sharp at carolyns@aerbvi.org. ■



Call for Chapters to Host International Conference in 2004!

Although the year 2004 seems like a long way off, it really is "closer than it appears" when it comes to conference planning. With the number of people in attendance at our conferences (nearly 800) and with our meeting room space requirements, we need to secure a city and hotel that can accommodate us for the 2004 conference within the next few months.

Plans for the AER 2000 International Conference (July 14-18 at the Adam's Mark Hotel) in Denver, Colorado, are well underway; and the site for the 2002 International Conference (July 17-21) will be the Westin Harbour Castle in Toronto, Canada. The Board of Directors is requesting any chapter interested in hosting the 2004 conference to submit a letter of interest prior to the next Board of Directors meeting scheduled for April 8, 1999.

The letter of interest must include an explanation of why your chapter should be chosen as the host chapter, what type of support your chapter can provide (i.e., volunteers, pre-planning, hotel accessibility inspections, fund raising, etc.), several recommendations of city hotels that can accommodate a group of our size, information on airport and public transportation access, and any additional information detailing points of interest in and around the city. (The following are the cities where we have hosted the Conference in the recent past: 1998 - Atlanta, GA; 1996 - St. Louis, MO; 1994 - Dallas, TX; 1992 - Los Angeles, CA; 1990 - Washington, DC.)

Letters of interest must be received no later than **March 1, 1999**, and should be sent to AER - 2004 Conference, 4600 Duke Street, Suite 430, P.O. Box 22397, Alexandria, VA 22304. Please contact Lorna Frazier-Lindsey at 703-823-9690 or lornafl@aerbvi.org if you have any questions. ■

1999 Dates for O&M Seminars Announced by Leader Dogs

Once again, Leader Dogs will be offering seminars for O&M professionals. In 1998, Leader Dogs for the Blind trained a number of O&M professionals in the proper utilization of a guide dog. Leader Dogs for the Blind will be offering 3 day seminars in 1999, which will cover a variety of methods the orientation and mobility practitioner can use when working with the guide dog user. Upon completion of the seminar, CEU credits are available from Western Michigan University.

Sessions will address: Orientation of the guide dog client to new environments, observation and intervention techniques, as well as hands-on, blind-fold work in a variety of environments with a guide dog. A discussion of methods to prepare students that may wish to get a guide dog will also take place.

All seminars will begin on a Thursday at 11:00 am, and end on a Saturday around 12:00 pm. Leader Dogs for the Blind will arrange transportation, at no cost to the participant, or pay mileage for travel to Leader Dogs. The school will also provide all meals and lodging in our dormitory. Available dates for 1999 are: May 20-22, June 24-26, September 16-18, and October 14-16.

For additional information call or write: Rod Haneline, Director of Admissions, Leader Dogs for the Blind, P.O. Box 5000, Rochester, MI 48308; 800-777-5332; or e-mail rhaneline@leaderdog.org. ■

Correction:

The name of our Canadian Representative to the AER Board of Directors, Linda Mamer, was inadvertently excluded from the listing of the Board on page 2 of the August 1998 and September 1998 AER Report. We regret the inconvenience this caused, and wish thank the members who brought this to our attention. ■



Yesterday's News

by Gregory Goodrich

CNIB 80 Years and Counting

As reported in an earlier column, 1998 marks the 50th Anniversary of the Blind Rehabilitation Service (BRS) of the United States' Department of Veterans Affairs. This same year marks another important milestone — the 80th anniversary of the Canadian National Institute for the Blind (CNIB). There is an interesting parallel between BRS and CNIB; both organizations grew from the need to provide services for those blinded by war.

In 1968, Paul C. O'Neill, Public Relations Director of CNIB, authored the lead article for AAWB's *Blindness Annual*. In this article he describes the origin of CNIB.

"Today's achievements stem from a staff of three and a handful of volunteers who brought the organization into being in 1918. Few knew the blind of that day and the popular public attitude was to hide the handicapped and ignore them. When Colonel E.A. Baker, one of the founders and now Honorary President of CNIB, came home from France, among the first blind veterans of World War I, he found the only service for the adult blind was a small library circulating 26 books in New York Point, the antecedent of Braille. The library was about to be evicted from a small basement room because of lack of funds. The veterans and the library board joined forces, solved the shaky financial problems of the moment and set the CNIB in motion with a Federal Government charter on March 30, 1918."

CNIB's 80th Anniversary is a significant milestone for an organization that has long since outgrown that old basement library and taken its place as one of the premier agencies in the world. And, AER will soon create another Canadian milestone with the opening of the first AER office in Canada. Watch for that event to be commemorated in a future *Yesterday's News* column, say in the year 2048? ■

Missouri School for the Blind Receives Missouri Quality Award

"It is a great day in public education!", expresses Dr. Yvonne Howze, Superintendent of the Missouri School for the Blind (MSB). She has cause to be excited about the school's recognition for its excellence in quality management and achievement.

MSB was recognized as the first K-12 program and the first public sector agency to receive the Missouri Quality Award. MSB is also the first school for the blind in the nation to receive a state excellence award. The Missouri Quality Award exemplifies the school's commitment to continuous improvement and customer satisfaction.

The award, patterned after the National Malcolm Baldrige Award, begins with a self-assessment application in the areas of leadership, strategic planning, student and stakeholder focus, information and analysis, faculty and staff focus, educational and support process management, and school performance results. The applications are scored by an independent panel of examiners from various industries including health care, manufacturing, and education.

The distinction of winning the Missouri Quality Award reaffirms MSB's commitment to quality education and best educational practices. This recognition marks the launch of MSB's "Beyond Success" campaign, leading to its 150th anniversary in the year 2001. ■

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December 1998

Dear AER Members,

We Hear You.

Since the increase in AER's membership dues last December, many of you have taken the time to write or call to express your opinion about the dues increase. Some expressed support of the increase; others expressed concerns. Those expressions were often accompanied by suggestions of ways to address these concerns. I appreciate those of you who took time to share your ideas with us.

Please know that the AER Board of Directors and I have heard you. At our October Board meeting we reviewed your concerns and spent time on serious consideration of them. And now we take this opportunity to address them.

We are extremely pleased to report that the number of members as of November 1998 is 92% of the total number of members from this time last year. We have gained many new members, and our current membership is 4,579. These statistics reflect the commitment of our members to our goal of "professionals supporting professionals."

The possibility of a dues increase was first discussed in a report on AER's financial outlook in the February 1997 issue of *AER Report*. It was also discussed at length with Chapter Presidents and Division Officers during the 1997 AER-Lift leadership conference. A letter addressing the dues increase was sent in October of 1997 to every member along with a sample copy of the *Journal of Visual Impairment and Blindness (JVIB)*. Nevertheless, we have learned over the last year that many of our members felt unapprised of the dues increase. Some questioned why a substantial increase was necessary.

As a review, we needed to raise dues in order to keep up with our costs. Prior to the 1997 increase, AER membership dues had not been raised in eight years. Since then our dues level had not kept pace with the cost of doing business or the inflationary rate. Without the increase, AER would not have

the funds to grow and expand benefits. Our income could no longer sustain us, and we were drawing from our endowment funds. As a result, many services were cut. Due to the financial situation, AER lost one third of its staff when we were unable to replace one full-time professional position and lost one part-time position. In order to take on more of the day-to-day operations, our Executive Director was no longer able to do the lobbying that is so important if we are to maintain and increase quality services to people with visual impairments. What it boiled down to was that without a dues increase, AER's financial future was uncertain at best.

As a member of the Board that passed the dues increase, I witnessed the negative effects of having gone so many years without a dues increase. And, I am keenly aware of WHY past Boards had not implemented dues increases. IT IS A VERY TOUGH DECISION TO MAKE! However, seeing the staff positions cut, knowing that there were many good projects that could not be started, and watching the current programs struggle gave the 1996-1998 Board of Directors the impetus needed to move forward with this substantial dues increase.

In order to avoid having to repeat such a drastic increase in dues, the 1996-1998 Board of Directors passed a motion in April of 1998 assuring that:

- All future dues increases will take place at regularly-scheduled intervals.
- Increases will be at a rate equal to the US Consumer Price Index of the previous two years. (This should result in smaller and predictable increases.)
- No increase will take place until the year 2000.

During the October 1998 meeting, the Board of Directors conducted a lengthy discussion to consider all of the suggestions by members in reaction to the 1997 dues increase. These suggestions include:

- a dues payment installment plan;
- a discount for households with more than one AER member;
- the offering of *JVIB* as an optional benefit.

As a result of the discussion, the Board is investigating several options and will act on the findings at its next meeting in April 1999.

Through this investigation:

1. We will study the feasibility and financial repercussions of offering installment payments of membership dues.

2. We will research the procedural and financial implications of offering a "Same Household" membership at a discounted rate. (With such a discount the members in that household would pay a discounted rate, but receive only one mailing of *RE:view*, *AER Report*, etc.)

Having *JVIB* as an optional benefit is not possible at this time. AER entered a contractual agreement with AFB that specifies that all regular, international, transitional, and student members will receive *JVIB*. This contract is valid until December 31, 2002.

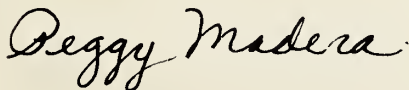
I will make a recommendation to the future AER Board to review this option with AFB one year prior to the end of the current contract. I will also make a recommendation to the future Board that, before continuing *JVIB* as a membership benefit, the members be surveyed about interest in this benefit. Although some would prefer *JVIB* as an optional benefit, many of our members have expressed their pleasure with having *JVIB* as a membership benefit. Please note that although *JVIB* was added as a member benefit at the same time as the dues increase, it was not the reason for the dues increase.

Again, a sincere thanks to all who wrote or called with suggestions. The Board of Directors and I truly hope that this communication will address your concerns and demonstrate to you that we are listening and responding.

I sincerely thank all members who have recently joined AER and those who have renewed this last year. I greatly appreciate your confidence in your organization and thank you for reaffirming your commitment to AER and professionalism.

Several of the comments in support of the dues increase expressed the sentiment that "We are worth it." Thanks, I agree. "WE ARE WORTH IT!" And so are our students and clients.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Peggy Madera".

Peggy Madera
President

Division Changes and Meeting News -- Report from the CDC

by Barbara Hunt, Chair, Council of Division Chairs

At the October meeting of the AER Board of Directors, the merger of Division 12 - Elementary Curriculum for Children and Division 13 - Secondary Curriculum for Children was approved. This new division will be Division 10 and temporarily will be called Elementary and Secondary Curriculum for Children. A permanent name will be decided by Division members. The Co-Chairs for Division 10 - Elementary and Secondary Curriculum for Children are Carolyn Longuil and Betty Squires.

The AER Board also approved a name change for Division 11. Previously named Division 11 - Rehabilitation Teaching and Independent Living Services. Division 11 is now Rehabilitation Teaching. This name change was made to better reflect the professional qualifications of Division 11 members.

At the meeting, representatives from the four CDC groups (i.e. School Age Services - Jana Almquist, Adult Services - Barb Hunt, Related Services - Jay Stiteley, and Large Divisions - Dona Sauerburger) met to identify responsibilities for the representatives. The representatives will serve as liaisons between the Board and the Divisions, will facilitate discussion and problem-solving for Divisions, will send information from the Divisions to AERnet, AER's listserve, and *AER Report*, will assist with the AER-Lift agenda, and will assist in training Division chairs-elect. This system of representation should ensure increased communication to all Division members.

Speaking of AER-Lift, the Council of Division Chairs will be holding its annual meeting at the leadership conference slated for April 9-11, 1999. New CDC members will be trained in the responsibilities of their positions and will be provided with notebooks that can be used as a resource tool during their term of office. Anyone having an agenda item for the meeting should contact Barb Hunt, CDC Chair at 708-524-1351. ■



Division Docket

News snippets from
AER Divisions
(Divisions are welcome - and
encouraged - to submit brief,
newsworthy items!)

Division 9 - Orientation & Mobility

Division 9 has recently published the first comprehensive booklet of the university and college programs that prepare O&Mers. It will be sent to all Division members with the next Division 9 newsletter. Others may obtain a copy from the AER office. ■

Division 10 - Elementary and Secondary Curriculum for Children (previously Division 12 and Division 13)

Division 10 is working on bylaws for the new division. Division members will be deciding on a permanent name for the Division. Currently Division 10 is named Elementary and Secondary Curriculum for Children. ■

Division 11 -- Rehabilitation Teaching

Division 11 is beginning the process of developing a logo for Rehabilitation Teaching. In addition, work groups are preparing for the 1999 Rehabilitation Conference that will be held in July, 1999, at Western Michigan University. ■



The field of educating learners with visual impairment and the Colorado AER chapter are busting their buttons with pride due to the recent announcement that AER member, **Janice Barron** was a 1998 Recipient of the Milken Family Foundation. Jan is a teacher of students with visual impairment in Academy District #20 in Colorado Springs, CO. She is also a Past President of the Colorado AER Chapter. The Milken Family Foundation Award is reserved for educators who have demonstrated high excellence. Only 160 teachers across the country were awarded this high honor in 1998. Jan has honored our field by her recognized excellence.■

Wisconsin AER is pleased to announce the presentation of its awards at the chapter's annual conference, October 29-30. The Omar L. Miron Rehabilitation Award for exemplary leadership and dedicated service to persons with visual impairments was bestowed upon **Rodney Kossick**; the William H. English Education Award for exemplary leadership and dedicated service to persons with visual impairments went to **Thomas Hanson**; and, the WAER Special Award for a non-WAER member who has provided outstanding service to persons who are blind or visually impaired was awarded to **Karen Heesen**. Congratulations one and all!■

Congratulations, too, goes to AER member **Frances Mary D'Andrea** on her appointment as Director of AFB Southeast in Atlanta, GA.■

The Council of Schools for the Blind (COSB) in conjunction with The Principals of Schools for the Blind, presented the award for 1998 Outstanding Teacher of the Year to AER member **Susan Osterhaus** from Austin, Texas. She was recognized for her excellence and dedication in the education of children with visual impairments during the COSB Banquet in Louisville, KY, on October 14, 1998. Congratulations, Susan!■

The American Printing House for the Blind, an AER corporate member, announces the appointment of AER member, **Bob Brasher**, to the position of Director of Educational & Advisory Services.■

Congratulations to AER member, **Debby Lieberman**, of San Francisco, CA, on receiving the John J. Murphy Memorial Award, presented by the American Association for the Deaf-Blind.■

Best wishes go out to AER member, **Julie Harding**, of Colorado Springs, CO, who has been named as a 1998 recipient of the American Foundation for the Blind's Delta Gamma Foundation Florence Margaret Harvey Memorial Scholarship.■

Canadian National Industries for the Blind (CNIB), was named the 1998 "Role Model Organization of the Year" by the SAP/Stevie Wonder Vision Awards program.■

Kudos to AER member, **Samuel Genesky, Ph.D.**, a leader in the advancement of services and technology for people with low vision, who has been selected to receive one of the American Foundation for the Blind's (AFB) 1998 Migel Medals. The Migel Medal was established to honor professionals and volunteers whose dedication and achievements have significantly improved the lives of people who are blind or visually impaired.■

Formerly known as The Lighthouse, Inc., the AER corporate member, is very pleased to announce its name change to **Lighthouse International** effective immediately. In addition, Lighthouse International announces that **Dr. Davida Teller** is the recipient of the organization's 1998 Pisart Vision Award. The award is made annually to an individual whose distinguished work has contributed to the prevention, current treatment, or care of blindness.■

The Board of Directors of **National Industries for the Blind (NIB)**, Alexandria, VA, an AER corporate member, is pleased to announce the appointment of **James Gibbons** to the office of President and Chief Executive Officer. Welcome, Jim.■

Congratulations to **Dr. Michael Graham**, of Billings, MT, on his new appointment as Interim Administrator of the Idaho Commission for the Blind.■

In Memoriam...

AER regrets to report the passing of **Dr. Kenneth Jernigan**, president of the Baltimore-Based National Federation of the Blind (NFB), and wishes to recognize his commitment of his time, energy, and life to empowering people who are blind or visually impaired. Dr. Jernigan died of lung cancer at his home on October 12, 1998. He was appointed president of NFB in 1968. In addition to his successful career at NFB, Dr. Jernigan was also a teacher in Tennessee and California, director of the Iowa Commission for the Blind, executive director of the American Action Fund for Blind Children and Adults, as well as a published author, spokesperson, and consultant on issues in the blindness field. He is survived by his wife, a daughter, three grandchildren. ■

On October 8, 1998, Commissioner **Carolyn Marie Garrett**, an AER member, was killed in an auto-pedestrian accident in Houston, at the age of 48. She was on her way to the University of Houston where she was pursuing a degree in Psychology. In 1994, she was appointed by the Governor of Texas as a member of the Texas Commission for the Blind Governing Board. Ms. Garrett is survived by her husband and three daughters. ■

Retired vice president of the Seeing Eye, Inc., **Richard Whitstock** of Cortland, NY, died October 15, 1998, after a long battle with cancer. He joined The Seeing Eye in 1957, was promoted to vice president of field services in 1967, and became vice president of programs in 1977, a position he held until his retirement in 1992. Mr. Whitstock served as president of the American Association of Workers for the Blind, AER's predecessor, from 1973-1975. He is survived by his wife, three daughters, two sons, eight grandchildren, and four sisters. ■

Special Thanks!

A very special thank you goes out to the following members for their generous contributions to AER's MacFarland Stipend Fund, Lowenfeld Publications Fund, and General Operating Fund:

★ **Frances Mary D'Andrea (GA)**
★ **Carol Halliday (Switzerland)**

★ **David Ekin (MO)**
★ **J. Elton Moore (MS)**

★ **Barbara M. Galgano (CA)**

Thank you all for helping us to support those who provide services to people with visual impairments. ■

New \$20 Note to Include Machine-Readable Capability

The U.S. Treasury and Federal Reserve have started issuing the new \$20 note, which is the first in the Series 1996 Notes to incorporate a machine-readable capability for the blind.

Similar to the redesigned \$50 note, the \$20 bill and consequent denominations will include a large dark numeral on a light background on the back of the note that will make it easier for more than 3.7 million Americans with low vision to identify it.

For the first time, a machine readable capability has been incorporated for the blind. A new feature in the \$20 note will facilitate the development of convenient scanning devices that could identify the notes as a \$20. Treasury is encouraged that several key constituency groups and machine manufacturers have already expressed strong interest in creating a low-cost, portable device that can identify the new notes. The new feature in the \$20 will facilitate the development of such convenient scanning devices. ■



Mark Your Calendars!

December 1, 1998 - Psychosocial Issues in Vision Impairment, Lighthouse International Continuing Education Course. Contact: Lighthouse Continuing Education (212) 821-9470 or (800) 829-0500.■

December 7-9, 1998 - Florida AER Conference, "Our State FAER is a Great State FAER," St. Petersburg, FL. Contact: Debra Arnold, (850) 488-4800.■

December 17, 1998 - Functional Implications of Eye Disease, Lighthouse International Continuing Education Course. Contact: Lighthouse Continuing Education (212) 821-9470 or (800) 829-0500.■

January 11 -15, 1999 - Australian and New Zealand Association of Educators of the Visually Handi-capped Biennial Conference, Sydney, Australia. Contact: ANZAEVH 99 02-9411-4666.■

February 5-6, 1999 - Hawaii AER Conference, Honolulu, HI. Dean and Naomi Tuttle will present workshops on self-esteem and the adjusting process. Continuing counseling and education credits may be available. Contact: Sam Fisk (808) 586-5270; fax (808) 586-5288; or e-mail: ho-opono@pixinet.com.■

February 19-20, 1999 - New Mexico AER Conference "Eyes on 2000." Contact: Fran Black, (505) 867-0711 ext. 425.■

February 25-26, 1999 - Illinois Vision Conference, Naperville Holiday Inn Select, Naperville, IL. Contact: John Sturtevant (773) 535-8362.■

March 3-5, 1999 - RRTC on Blindness and Low Vision and American Foundation for the Blind national conference - "Focus on Employment: Breaking Down the Barriers," Marriott Hotel, Washington, DC. Contact: John Maxson (601) 325-2001 or Gil Johnson (415) 392-4845.■

March 5-7, 1999 - 13th Josephine L. Taylor Leadership Institute, Washington, DC. Contact: Alberta Orr (212) 502-7634; e-mail alorr@afb.net.■

March 20, 1999 - AER Division 7 - Certified Low Vision Therapist Examination, held at the SOMA Conference, Atlanta, GA. Must register and complete the application process prior to March 5, 1999. Contact: AER (703) 823-9690.■

March 20-22, 1999 - SOMA Conference, Atlanta, GA. Contact: Belen Hickman (404) 876-2636; fax (404) 872-5255.■

April 8-9, 1999 - AER Board of Directors Meeting, Hilton Austin North & Towers, Austin, TX. Contact: Denise Rozell (703) 823-9690.■

April 9-11, 1999 - AER-Lift 1999 - AER's Leadership Conference, Hilton Austin North & Towers, Austin, TX. Contact: Lorna Frazier-Lindsey (703) 823-9690.■

April 22-24, 1999 - Texas AER Chapter Meeting - Austin, TX. Contact: Nora Griffin-Shirley (806) 742-2345; e-mail ibngs@ttacs.ttu.edu.■

April 28-30, 1999 - The Pennsylvania Conference for Service Providers in the Field of Visual Impairment Spring Conference - Collaboration: A Vision for the Future, Holiday Inn, Hershey-Grantville, Grantville PA; contact: Vince McVeigh (610) 543-9911.■

May 6-7, 1999 - AER Arkansas Chapter Meeting. Contact: Janie Humphries (501) 296-1815; e-mail jhumphries@asb.k12.ar.us.■

May 6-9, 1999 - Canadian Vision Teachers Conference. Contact: David Miller (902) 424-8539; fax: (902) 424-0543.■

July 12-16, 1999 - Vision '99 Triennial International Conference on Low Vision, Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, NY. Contact (800) 829-0500.■

July 21-23, 1999 - Rehabilitation Teaching Conference, "Rehabilitation Teaching The Next Century," Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI. Contact: Lisa-Ann Soucy (914) 761-3221.■

November 11-14, 1999 - 4th Biennial "Getting in Touch with Literacy" Conference, San Francisco, CA. Contact: Stephen Goodman, CA School for the Blind, (510) 794-3800 ext. 210.■

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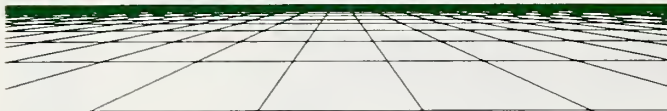
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Across the Spectrum



**An information exchange focusing on literature
which references blindness or low vision**

Submitted by: Gregory Goodrich
Journal Reference: *CARING Magazine*, Sept. 1998,
pp 36-45
Article: "Implementing a Visual Rehabilitation
Program"
Authors: Sara Pazell■

Submitted by: Greg Goodrich
Journal Reference: *Ophthalmol* 1997, No. 81 pp.
574-577
Article: "Visual Impairment and Socioeconomic
Factors"
Authors: P. M. Livingston, C. A. McCarty, H. R.
Taylor
Reprint requests to: Dr. P.M. Livingston, University
of Melbourne, Department of Ophthalmology, 1st Floor,
Royal Victorian Eye and Ear Hospital, 32 Gisborne
Street, East Melbourne 3002, Australia■

Submitted by: Greg Goodrich
Journal Reference: *Disability and Rehabilitation*,
1997; Vol. 19, No. 3, pg. 85-91
Article: "Models of Disability"
Authors: Deborah Marks
Reprint requests to: Dr. Deborah Marks, University of
Sheffield, Centre for Therapeutic Studies, 16 Claremont
Crescent, Sheffield S10 2TA, UK■

Submitted by: Greg Goodrich
Journal Reference: *Oxford University Press* 1998,
Current Eye Research, pp 506-511
Article: "Self-assessment of the Quality of Vision:
Association of Questionnaire Score with Objective
Clinical Tests"
Authors: Arturo Carta, Laura Braccio, Matteo Belpoliti,
Lombert Soliani, Franco Sartore, Stefano Gandolfi,
Giovanni Maraini
Reprint requests to: Giovanni Maraini, Istituto di
Oftalmologia, University of Parma, via Gramsci 14,
43100 Parma, Italy; or via e-mail at:
maraini@ipr.univ.cce.unipr.it■

Submitted by: Greg Goodrich
Journal Reference: *Optometry and Vision Science*,
Vol. 75, No. 7, July 1998, pp. 518-524
Article: "Use of Bioptic Amorphic Lenses to Expand the
Visual Field in Patients with Peripheral Loss"
Author: Janet Szlyk, William Seiple, Denice
Laderman, Roger Kelsch, Kenneth Ho, Timothy
McMahon
Reprint requests to: Janet Szlyk, Department of
Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences, University of
Illinois at Chicago, 1855 West Taylor Street, Chicago, IL
60612.■

Submitted by: Greg Goodrich
Journal Reference: *Optometry and Vision Science*,
Vol. 75, No. 7, July 1998, pp. 525-537
Article: "Traditional Measures of Mobility Performance
and Retinitis Pigmentosa"
Author: Duane Geruschat, Kathleen Turano, Julie
Stahl
Reprint requests to: Duane Geruschat, The Maryland
School for the Blind, 3501 Taylor Avenue, Baltimore,
MD 21236.■

Submitted by: Greg Goodrich
Journal Reference: *Optometry and Vision Science*,
Vol. 75, No. 7, July 1998, pp. 536-547
Article: "Visual Correlates of Mobility in Real World
Settings in Older Adults with Low Vision"
Author: Thomas Kuyk, Jeffry Elliott, Patti Fuhr
Reprint requests to: Thomas Kuyk, Veterans Affairs
Medical Center, 700 S. 19th St., SE Blind Rehab,
Birmingham, AL 35233.■

Submitted by: Greg Goodrich
Journal Reference: *Arch Ophthalmol*, Vol. 116, May
1997, pp. 653-658
Article: "Age-Specific Prevalence and Causes of
Blindness and Visual Impairment in an Older Population -
The Rotterdam Study"
Author: Caroline Klaver, Roger Wolfs, Johannes
Vingerling, Albert Hofman, Paulus de Jong
Reprint requests to: Paulus de Jong, The Netherlands
Ophthalmic Research Institute, Box 12141, 1100 AC
Amsterdam, the Netherlands; or via e-mail at:
dejong@epib.gff.eur.nl.■



From: Library of Congress

The American Printing House for the Blind (APH) and the National Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS), the Library of Congress, have entered into a cooperative agreement to work on the revision and maintenance of the National Literary Braille Competency Test. NLS has been administering the test for teachers of braille to children and adults since 1994. It is currently being revised as part of a validation study conducted by Human Research Resources Organization. During the next two years, APH and NLS will organize 2 committees to facilitate the revision process and to manage and maintain the testing program. AER will be represented by two members; one representing adults and one representing children. Contact: Mary Lou Stark, (202) 707-9302.■

From: Massachusetts Association for the Blind

Members of the VISION Foundation, Inc. (VISION) and Trustees of the Massachusetts Association for the Blind (MAB) voted to merge the Vision Foundation, Inc., and MAB's Community Services Department. The new division of MAB will be called VISION Community Services with an expanded presence in service delivery in Massachusetts and positioned for additional growth. Contact; MAB (617) 738-5110.■

From: Telesensory

Telesensory announces the introduction of the Aladdin brand. The new Aladdin product line is divided into two categories; personal and professional, to focus on the needs of the Consumer as well as the Business Professional. The personal line includes the Aladdin, the Rainbow and the Ambassador, previously known as the Expert Reader. The professional line includes the Genie, the Pro+, and the XL. For additional information, contact (800) 804-8004.■

From: Aquarius Health Care Videos

"In the Mind of the Beholder," is a documentary about newly blind adults making the transition to using their non-visual senses. By sharing their experiences, the people in this film demystify blindness and the non-visual clues they use to navigate the world. Contact: Aquarius Health Care Videos (508) 651-2963.■

From: Southern Illinois University Press

Coping with Blindness Personal Tales of Blindness Rehabilitation by Alvin Roberts, an AER member, is now available for \$12.95 plus shipping. Contact: (800) 346-2680 or (618) 453-6619.■

From: Foundation for Blind Children

The Foundation for Blind Children's Arizona Instruction Resource center announces a price reduction of its recent transcription of the English translation of the Holy Koran. Braille copies are available for sale in 1,203 pages, bound in 6 volumes, at \$495.00. Contact: AIRC (602) 331-1470.■

From: OUR-Co Industries

Our-Co Industries announces Braille Bead Necklaces are available in time for the holidays. Both Braille and print combine to customize the name, word or initials of your choice. For price and order information, contact: (732) 805-1912. Also, in February, Our-Co will produce "Beautiful Things," a full catalog featuring the Braille Bead Necklaces and sponge-painted and screen printed apparel will be available.■

From: The Braille Revival League

The Braille Revival League has produced its 1999 Braille Literacy Month Packet (January, 1999) containing numerous resources for conducting a wide variety of Braille literacy activities. Contact: Kim Charlson (617) 926-9198.■

From: American Foundation for the Blind

In preparation for the upcoming holiday season, the American Foundation for the Blind and Toy Manufactures of America have released the latest edition of the *Guide to Toys for Children Who Are Blind or Visually Impaired*. Available in full-color print or on audiocassette free of charge. Contact: AFB (800) 232-5463 or TMA (212) 633-1429.■

From: BRYTECH, Inc.

BRYTECH initially introduced Note Teller, a compact optical reader that enables visually impaired and blind people to determine the denomination of U.S. bank notes, has been redesigned to read the new designs of U.S. bank notes and has provision to be upgraded to read other denominations when new bank notes are introduced. For details, contact: BRYTECH, Inc. (800) 263-4095.■

AERwaves...



Best Wishes to You and Yours for a Happy and Safe Holiday Season
from the AER International Staff!



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Vol. 16, No. 2
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AER Report

A New Look for AER Report

Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired

Final IDEA Regulations Issued

By Denise M. Rozell, Executive Director

On March 12, 1999, the Department of Education issued the eagerly awaited final regulations for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act Amendments of 1997 (IDEA '97). Items of particular importance or interest to AER members include:

- The detailed definition of "orientation and mobility services"

from the draft regulations is carried over into the final regulations, including the affirmation of O&M at "home, school and community." Orientation and mobility is defined as a unique discipline distinct from travel training or mobility services;

- The notes from the draft regulations concerning travel training

have been deleted.

Instead, travel training is included in the definition of "special education" for students with significant cognitive disabilities, and others who require it to benefit from special education;

(Continued on page 8)

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The AER Advantage

1999 Member-Get-A-Member Campaign

By Carol Otten, Chair
International Membership Committee

Hey, AER Members! What is "The AER Advantage," 1999 Member-Get-A-Member Campaign? It is your chance to earn "AER Advantage Dollars" and other valuable rewards, while helping you organization grow as we look towards the new millennium.

The campaign is easy and fun. We hope to

recruit new and lapsed members so that they, too, can enjoy the many benefits of our professional organization.

Our campaign begins May 1, 1999, and will run through September 30, 1999. Look for the special pull-out brochure included in this AER Report for all the details on the campaign and how you can win

valuable rewards for your recruitment efforts.

Set your sights on becoming the 1999 "Recruiter of the Year" and receive roundtrip "AER-fare" and hotel accommodations to the AER Conference in Denver, Colorado, in July 2000.

Get ready to share The AER Advantage! ■



AER's Mission:

To develop and promote professional excellence through support of those who provide services to people with visual impairments.



From the President

"BELONGING"

Human beings are social creatures, therefore, one of the basic characteristics of humans is a desire "to belong." We humans have a need to be part of a family, partnership, team, group or larger organizations. Perhaps we feel this pull because we recognize that, as part of a group, we can accomplish much more than we are able to do as individuals. Being part of a group provides us with a support system of people with whom we share some common beliefs. "Belonging" gives us courage and momentum and encourages us to strive for bigger goals. "Belonging" can bring out the best in people. There are many reasons we seek "to belong."

And we DO "belong!"

Perhaps some people choose to be a member of AER because of certification or to fulfill job requirements. Maybe others do so to receive the journals, or to take advantage of the insurance programs. But, I would imagine many of us join because we want "to belong." ... "to belong" to a group of our professional peers ... "to belong" to an organization that recognizes the importance of professionalism ... and "to belong" to an association that is committed to supporting professionals in the field of Blindness.

As AER members, we often hear the question, "What do I get for

my membership dues?" I usually feel the need to list all the tangibles such as journals, conferences, continuing education opportunities, etc. But, I sincerely believe the most valuable benefit of being a member of AER is "BELONGING." As a member, you are part of something bigger than yourself, something stronger and more powerful. Being part of a professional organization gives us an edge! I think of this as "The AER Advantage."

As individuals joined together in our professional organization we have accomplished many great things. The passing of ADA, the reauthorization of the Rehab Act, and the new language in IDEA are all examples of great achievements made possible through the combined efforts of individuals who have chosen "TO BELONG." As members of AER we have combined our efforts with other organizations to form larger coalitions. There is strength in numbers.

"Belonging" to AER provides many opportunities to become involved. Some AER members are actively involved on various committees that plan our conferences, or arrange for continuing education seminars. Others are busy serving in leadership roles in their chapters or divisions. Some put their efforts into our publications, such as *RE: view*, by submitting articles or serving as editors. Others are helping us look to the future by serving on task forces exploring trends in Cer-



*Peggy Madera, AER President
1998-2000*

tification and Third Party Payments.

In addition to all the work that goes on within AER, we have members representing us, the professionals, on many major committees and task forces, in cooperation with other Blindness agencies. These groups are working on issues in many areas of education and rehabilitation of the blind and visually impaired.

While attending local Chapter meetings, I have the pleasure of witnessing the positive effects of being a member of AER. I see how presenters are able to inspire their colleagues to try new things. I watch the excitement of professionals, who as a result of the networking and interaction taking place, decide to make major changes such as going back to school for an advanced degree, designing a new curriculum for their students, or exploring new areas of technology for the visually impaired. In other words, I get to see "The AER Advantage" in action.

During and after these conferences and meetings, I witness the reality of the power of "belonging."

Oh... you say you already know all this.

...That's why you "belong" to AER?

...Oh, so you, too, feel the excitement and importance of "belonging" to AER!

Right! I am preaching to the choir. But there is a reason. You see, AER needs all of you choir members to get out there and do some preaching yourselves! We are en-

listing your help to spread the word. There are still many professionals who have not yet had the benefit and joy of "belonging" to our association. They have not experienced "The AER Advantage."

So, I am issuing a challenge to all of you. Please help us in our efforts to recruit new members as well as those who have let their membership lapse. In the centerfold of this issue there is information about a membership campaign that begins next month. This is our opportunity to reach out to other professionals and let them know the

benefits of being part of a bigger picture. This is our chance to let others know how proud we are "to belong" to an organization that values professionalism and continually seeks to improve services for people with visual impairments.

Remember, we accomplish our best when working together.

I sure am glad that I "belong" to AER. I am awfully pleased that you "belong" too!■

Peggy Madera

If You Don't Read Braille... Read This.

Parents of blind children, teachers, people in workplaces where braille is used, can now read braille easily, electronically.

O.B.R. is a new optical character recognition software that reads braille. Place braille copy on a Hewlett Packard scanner. Scan a document using O.B.R.. O.B.R. converts the Braille copy back to text. When O.B.R. is used with an Index braille embosser O.B.R. can be a Braille copy machine. Old copies of braille books in libraries that are not on disk or in print any longer can be scanned and saved for future use. O.B.R. works with interpoint or single side braille, in many different languages. *O.B.R. is exclusively from Sighted Electronics.*



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 www.aerbvi.org

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AER Report provides for the publication of materials that may represent divergent ideas, judgments, and opinions.

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 Beverly Gilbert
 Krista McGee
 Dickson Rodriguez

West Virginia
 Jeanie Meadows

"IT TAKES HARD WORK
AND DEDICATION TO
MAKE A GREAT TEAM . . .

THINK OF THAT WHEN YOU SEE
A BLIND PERSON AND
A GUIDE DOG.

THEIR TEAMWORK PAYS OFF
IN INDEPENDENCE.

AND THE LAW PROTECTS
THEIR RIGHT TO GO
EVERYWHERE THAT'S OPEN
TO THE PUBLIC. "*
Candice Bergen

*From Public Service Announcement
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Blind Orientation & Mobility Specialists?

By Dóna Sauerburger, COMS, Chair, Division 9 – Orientation & Mobility

Even though AER's present policy on certifying orientation and mobility specialists was established over four years ago, the AER office and members of Division 9 often get asked, "Does AER certify orientation and mobility specialists who are blind or who have other disabilities?" The answer is a resounding "YES! We have and we do."

I am glad for this opportunity to clarify AER's policy on this matter. It's easy to understand the confusion. When certification was established for O&M Specialists in the 1960's, vision and hearing were required. In 1977, the clinical visual and hearing requirements were replaced with a "Functional Abilities Checklist." Some activities on the checklist, however, still required vision, hearing, or physical abilities. In 1995, AER's Board of Directors eliminated the Functional Abilities Checklist as a requirement. In 1996, Division 9 voted overwhelmingly to adopt the University O&M Competency Form (UOMC), which is performance-based on professional standards that present minimum competencies that must be met by the applicant in order

to ensure quality O&M services to people who are blind or visually impaired. The standards reflect only essential job elements.

All candidates for certification must graduate from an AER-approved university or college program, and must now demonstrate the ability to perform the competencies listed in the UOMC. Graduates of approved programs who demonstrate the ability to perform these competencies, regardless of how they perform them or with what accommodations, are qualified to be AER Certified Orientation and Mobility Specialists.

AER-approved universities and colleges that prepare O&M specialists have accepted and trained people with disabilities, including people who are blind or visually impaired, and continue to do so. To meet requirements for graduation, these individuals may learn to use strategies that are different from sighted O&M specialists to ensure the tasks, such as street crossing, are done effectively and safely.

Upon graduation, they have applied and do apply for certification.

Because AER's application does not ask whether or not a person has a disability, AER has no official records of how many people who are blind or who have other disabilities have been certified. However, I personally know two people who are blind and one who is visually impaired who have graduated from three different universities in the last several years, and are now AER Certified Orientation and Mobility Specialists. It's quite likely that there are more. I also know two people who are certified as O&M specialists by AER who have other disabilities — one has a hearing impairment and the other is a wheelchair user.

So, if you are ever asked if AER certifies orientation and mobility specialists who are blind or have other disabilities, please help us keep the record straight by saying, "Yes, they absolutely do!"

If you have any questions about AER's policy on Certified O&M Specialists, please contact the AER office (aer@aerbvi.org) or me (sauerburger@mindspring.com). ■



Canadian Corner

by Linda Mamer, Canadian Representative to AER's Board of Directors

It gives us great pleasure to announce that the Canadian Office of AER will be opening on April 12, 1999, and will be staffed by AER member, Vince Martino. Vince has been an O&M specialist since 1994, and is a graduate of Mohawk College. Vince will staff the office one day a week – on Mondays.

One of the first initiatives of the new office will be to produce a newsletter for the Canadian members focusing on Canadian issues. If you have topics to raise, information to share, or articles that you would like included, please send them to: Vince Martino, c/o AER office, University of British Columbia, Special Education, Faculty of Education, 2125 Main Mall, Vancouver, BC, V6T 1Z4; fax - 604-822-3302; e-mail: Lmamer@compuserve.com (Please note: the Canadian AER office e-mail will be set up soon, so watch for a change in e-mail address.)■



RE:sources

From: Eschenbach

Eschenbach Spectacle Magnifiers are now available offering Designs for Vision, Inc.'s ClearImage II lenses in a fashionable, adjustable frame. The ClearImage II lens is made of a hi-index glass in a patented, double lens design providing distortion-free viewing from edge to edge. Contact your Eschenbach distributor or call toll free 877-422-7300. ■

From: American Academy of Ophthalmology

The AAO has recently published Ophthalmology Monograph 12, *Low Vision Rehabilitation: Caring for the Whole Person*, edited by Donald C. Fletcher, MD, is the result of collaboration between ophthalmologists and other rehabilitation professionals. It offers a positive, comprehensive, and activist approach to eye care that will help professionals provide low vision patients a better quality of care. Contact: 415-561-8540 or <http://www.eyenet.org> ■

From: American Printing House for the Blind

The Speech Expressor™ is now available from APH. It will allow the audio book listener to change the speed of recorded material without the change in sound quality usually experienced using older compression systems. It is compatible with any sound source having variable speed control. In addition, APH announces *Listening to Windows 95* a unique new training kit for users who are blind or visually impaired. The kit includes tactile and large print guides to screen layouts, a manual available

in four accessible media and the first interactive auditory software in CD-ROM format to teach *Windows* basics. Contact Tony Grantz 800-223-1839 or e-mail: tgrantz@aph.org ■

From: Lighthouse International

Apply now for Lighthouse International's 1999 Career Incentive Awards. These awards recognize excellence and honor the accomplishments of students with impaired vision. There are four \$5,000 awards given: one for a college-bound student (high school senior or recent graduate), two for undergraduates, and one for a graduate student. The deadline is March 31, 1999. Contact: awards@lighthouse.org or on the web at www.lighthouse.org/career_awards.htm ■

From: American Foundation for the Blind

AFB Press has announced the publication of its latest title on career education, *Skills for Success: A Career Handbook for Children and Adolescents with Visual Impairments*, edited by Karen E. Wolffe, Ph.D. This text outlines specific activities that prepare children and adolescents with visual impairments for independence in daily life and success on the job. In addition, AFB Press has a new publication on braille literacy, *Beginning With Braille: Firsthand Experiences with a Balanced Approach to Literacy*, which provides a wealth of activities for promoting literacy at the early stages of braille instruction. It is written by Anna Swenson. For information on both publications, contact 800-232-3044. ■

From: AssisTech

AssisTech has added a new line of low vision aids to its Demonstration

Center. Vision Technology's new Freedom Machines include 14" x 20" electronic magnifiers with innovative electronics and pushpad technology. The Demonstration Center offers the unique opportunity to experience, firsthand, low vision aids from over seven different manufacturers. A primary goal is to educate consumers and healthcare workers. Call Eydie DeVincenzie 301-681-0810 (Special note: new telephone number). ■

From: California Canes

California Canes announces the state-of-the-art Sidewalker Cane, which is made of carbon fiber for strength and durability. The Sidewalker is 2/3 lighter than comparable metal canes. The cane is combined with the new Roller Tip. Contact: 949-489-1973. ■

From: Soundaround

Soundaround is a monthly magazine, 90-minute cassette program available free to visually impaired people world wide. Each edition contains news and current affairs, regular features on cookery and gardening, competitions, quizzes, and the long running entertainment section. Contact: 800-917-6008 or www.adsuk.com/soundaround ■

From: Blind Children's Fund

"Lessons" With a Child Who is Blind, by Michael Brambring, a book presenting an account of one family's experiences in rearing their daughter who is congenitally blind, is now available through Blind Children's Fund. Also available is *The Secret Code*, a book for young children to understand braille. Contact: 517-347-1357. ■

(Continued from page 1)

- The new braille language is incorporated into the regulations exactly as it appears in the law;
- The braille section fails to affirmatively require that blind or visually impaired students receive their instructional materials contemporaneously with their sighted peers. The discussion section notes that the Department of Education believes this issue is sufficiently covered by Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and ADA;
- A student's ability to take assistive technology devices home, if necessary to benefit from special education, is reaffirmed;
- The discussion section, but not the regulation, related to assistive technology affirms that assistive technology includes both students' individual devices (e.g., braille notetakers) as well as students' access to technology used by other students (e.g. accessible computer labs or multimedia products);
- The continuum of placement options continues to be defined and supported in regulation. The discussion, although not the regulation, includes the statement of prior Department policy that a child need not fail in each option along the continuum before being appropriately placed. However, the Department refused to require that parents be provided information about the array of available placement options during the IEP or placement process;
- The definition of "general curriculum" and the explanatory note included in the draft regulations (which specified that "general curriculum" refers to the content of instruction, not the setting where it is given) was deleted. Where "general curriculum" is referred to in the body of the regulations, it is explained as the curriculum available to non-disabled students.

A more detailed analysis of the regulations and their impact on stu-

dents who are blind or visually impaired is being prepared and will be available through the AER office in the near future.

For those who want to review the regs themselves, the final regs were published in the Federal Register on March 12 (Volume 64, Number 48), pages 12405 through 12672. To find the regulations on-line (in six separate parts), visit the Department of Education's web site at <<http://www.ed.gov/offices/OSERS/IDEA>> or <<http://www.ideapolicy.org>>. They can be downloaded either as a text file or as a pdf file. A print copy can be ordered by mail by contacting ED-PUBS at 877-433-7827. To receive a copy of the regs in an alternative format (braille, large print, audiotape, or computer diskette), contact Katie Mincey, Director of the Alternative Formats Center at the Department of Education at <katie_mincey@ed.gov> or 202-260-9895. ■

CDC Report

By Barbara Hunt, Chair of the Council of Division Chairs

The Council of Division Chairs Executive Committee, composed of Jana Almquist, Jay Stiteley, Dona Sauerburger, and Barbara Hunt, developed a training manual for CDC members. The Manual was presented at AER-Lift during a training session for the members who were present.

Greg Goodrich, AER's Treasurer, presented information to CDC members at AER-Lift regarding division budgets. All divisions are encouraged to develop a biennial budget. If assistance is required, contact, Greg at 650-493-5000, ext. 64385 or goodrich@roses.stanford.edu. ■



The AER Advantage

**A Member-Get-A-Member Campaign
of the
Association for
Education and
Rehabilitation of the
Blind and Visually Impaired**



Elementary and Curriculum for the Visually Impaired

Division 12 has completed Leaders of the Division during AER-

Rehabilitation Training

present a pioneer leader, MSW, at the Spring 1999 Conference, MI, in July. Instrumental in the Rehabilitation at Western Michigan University. For more information, contact Anne Soucy at

Division 16 – Itinerant Personnel

Division 16's Caseload Committee is investigating putting together a product for division members that would assist them in addressing, dealing with, and, hopefully, resolving issues and/or difficulties with caseloads. Such difficulties might include: inequitable allocation between staff members, having no process for allocating students, and overloading of caseloads. The nature of the "product" is still under development. For information and input, contact: Nancy Toelle at ntoelle@tenet.edu. ■

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Gregory Goodrich

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The AER Advantage

**A Member-Get-A-Member Campaign
of the
Association for
Education and
Rehabilitation of the
Blind and Visually Impaired**





Dear Colleague:

Now is the time to share *The AER Advantage* with your colleagues. When you recruit a new member, you perpetuate AER's goal of professionals helping professionals, and making our collective voice stronger in the field.

From May 1, 1999, through September 30, 1999, each time you recruit a new member* you will receive AER Advantage Dollars to redeem towards your next membership renewal. In addition, each time you recruit a new member*, your name will be entered in a drawing to win one of the prizes listed in this brochure. The more new members* you recruit, the greater your chances are of winning.

You know the value of AER Membership. Your personal endorsement is by far the most effective recruitment tool. In addition to helping AER grow, you will be helping your colleagues grow in their professional development.

AER will make this easy for you. Simply share the center page of this brochure with a colleague, who isn't currently a member of AER. Be sure to list your name on the sponsor line. If you need additional recruitment forms, just call or e-mail AER. You will begin receiving your AER Advantage Dollars as soon as we receive the new member's* application form.

Recruit a new member* today! And, give them

The AER Advantage ✨

Sincerely,

Carol Otten

Carol Otten, COMS
Chair
1998-2000 International Membership Committee

*New member constitutes someone who has not been an AER member in the last 12 months.

- ✧ ***Make Professional Contacts*** – You'll make new and lifelong contacts when you are member of AER. Your membership puts you in touch with the profession's leaders, as well as professionals from around the world.
- ✧ ***Education Opportunities*** – Continue your education at chapter conferences and workshops, division meetings, the AER International Conference and Teleseminar series.
- ✧ ***Professional Journals and Periodicals*** – Stay on top with the latest techniques when you receive *RE:view* and the *Journal of Visual Impairment and Blindness* (regular and student members). Stay informed of legislative issues, association events, new services, and member news with *AER Report*. In addition, you will receive chapter and division newsletters that help keep you abreast of local events and happenings within your special interest groups.
- ✧ ***Advocacy*** – AER is your "voice" in the movement to protect and improve categorical programs. Be advised of legislative issues and respond through your association.
- ✧ ***Professional Certification*** – Enhance your professional standing by earning one or more of AER's prestigious certifications.
- ✧ ***AERNET Listserv*** – Subscribe to the AERNET Listserv, AER's electronic bulletin board and keep in touch daily with your peers.
- ✧ ***Career Opportunities*** – You will have access to the latest job openings in the field through AER's monthly publication, *AER Job Exchange*.
- ✧ ***Insurance Programs*** – You have access to professional liability insurance, along with a comprehensive insurance program package of many other insurance coverages.
- ✧ ***Peer Recognition*** – Earn prestigious awards from chapters, divisions, and AER by being nominated and selected for your outstanding achievements and contributions to the field.
- ✧ ***Networking Opportunities*** – Exchange ideas and share as you talk and socialize with fellow colleagues at AER chapter and division meetings, as well as the AER International Conference.
- ✧ ***Valuable Discounts*** – Receive reduced member rates on all AER's publications, as well as the *Journal of Low Vision and Neuro-Optometric Rehabilitation* and the *Journal of Rehabilitation Administration*. In addition, discounts are available through AER's car rental program and on conference and teleseminar attendance.

AER Individual Member

PERSONAL DATA (please print)

Mr./Ms./Miss/Mrs./Dr. First Name

Address

City State/Province

Work Phone Fax

MEMBERSHIP DATA Please check the appropriate

- ☐ **Regular Member (\$110/year)** - A full-voting membership open to anyone living in the U.S. or Canada, and includes AER periodicals and *JVIB*.
- ☐ **International Member (\$125/year)** - A non-voting membership open to persons living outside the U.S. or Canada, includes AER periodicals and *JVIB*.
- ☐ **Student Member (\$45/year)** - A full-voting membership open to full-time students in the U.S. or Canada, and includes AER periodicals and *JVIB*. Upon graduation, current student members are eligible for a one-year **Transition Member** category (\$85/year) which is the same as Regular Member.

PUBLICATIONS *AER Report* ☐ Print ☐ Tape
Select medium *JVIB* ☐ Print ☐ Tape

DIVISION MEMBERSHIP If you wish to join one or more

- | | |
|---|--|
| ☐ Div. 1 - Administration (\$10) | ☐ Div. 5 - Information |
| ☐ Div. 2 - Voc. Rehab. Counseling
& Employment Services (\$5) | ☐ Div. 6 - Business |
| ☐ Div. 3 - Multiple Disabilities &
Deafblind (\$10) | ☐ Div. 7 - Low Vision |
| ☐ Div. 4 - Psychosocial Services (\$5) | ☐ Div. 8 - Infant/Toddler |
| | ☐ Div. 9 - Orientation |
| | ☐ Div. 10 - Elderly |

LABEL POLICY: AER is occasionally approached by vendors for the release of information. If you wish to have your information released, please check here ☐.

CALCULATE YOUR INVESTMENT:

AER Membership	\$ _____
Division Dues	\$ _____
*Retired members add \$15 for <i>JVIB</i> , if desired	\$ _____
Total Amount Remitted	\$ _____

Please return the enrollment form with payment to:
fax credit card orders to AER at (703) 823-9699
visit us on the Web at www.aer.org

Enrollment Form

AER

Name: _____

First Name _____ Last Name _____

Home Code _____ Country _____

Home Phone _____ E-mail _____

Membership Category

Retired Member (\$50/year) - A voting membership for anyone who has retired from a career in the field. *JVIB* is available with this membership category for an additional fee of \$15.*

Support/Clerical Member (\$50/year) - A voting membership for individuals who are working in positions of paraprofessional or clerical support. It does not include *JVIB*.

Associate Member (\$45/year) - A non-voting membership for anyone who is not employed in, or preparing for employment in, the field. It includes *AER Report* and access to *AER Job Exchange* only.

RE:view ☐ Print ☐ Tape (4-track)

AER Job Exchange ☐ Print ☐ Tape

Special interest Divisions, please indicate the Division(s) below:

Technology (\$10) ☐ Div. 11 - Rehabilitation Teaching (\$10)

Program (\$0) ☐ Div. 15 - Division on Aging (\$10)

☐ Div. 16 - Itinerant Personnel (\$10)

\$10) ☐ Div. 17 - Personnel Preparation (\$15)

ity (\$10) ☐ Div. 18 - Veterans Services (\$10)

Secondary Curriculum for Children (\$5)

to purchase our mailing list. If you **DO NOT** want your name

Payment Information

Make checks or money orders payable, in U.S. dollars, to AER or charge the amount owed to your credit card:

☐ Master Card or ☐ Visa

Credit Card #: _____

Expiration Date: _____

Signature: _____

Union Bank, PO Box 6174, McLean, VA 22106-6174 or
AER at (703) 823-9690 if you have any questions or
go to www.acrbvi.org



AER Members' Speak Out



"I belong to AER because once in a while I need someone to talk to who does something similar to what I do. I need the support of other human beings who face the same issues and experience similar situations. It improves my problem solving ability and aids me in managing stress."

-Billy Brookshire, AER President-elect '98-
Senior Human Resources
Development Specialist
Texas Commission for the Blind
Austin

"My AER membership helps me keep current with best practices, as well as stay in contact with friends."

- Amy Sakoda
AER Division 8 Member (Infant &
Preschool)
Birth-Three Service Coordinator
and Service Provider
Morton Grove, IL



"Over the years, my reason for being a member of AER has changed. Originally, it was because that is what one did...joined the professional organization. But over time, I realized the value of the networking with other professionals and learning from my peers. Now it is the hope that I can continue learning and be able to share some of that knowledge and experience that I have gained with other professionals in the field."

-Jay Stiteley, AER Board Member ('98-
Field Representative
The Seeing Eye
Morristown, TN

"By being an AER Member, my opinion is relayed to policy makers through the national office. In addition, I know my one voice adds to the collective voice of our field."

- Laura Bozeman, Ph.D.
Chair-elect, AER Division 9
(Orientation and Mobility) ('98-'00)
Assistant Professor
North Carolina Central
University
Raleigh, NC



Recruit New AER Members* and Win!

✧ ***Recruit one new member**** and receive an AER lapel pin and an AER Advantage Dollar worth \$10 off your next AER membership renewal. (Life members recruiting one member would receive one free year of *JVIB*.) For each additional new member* you recruit, you will receive an additional AER Advantage Dollar worth \$5.00 off your next AER membership renewal, as well as be entered for the additional prizes listed below.

✧ ***Recruit 1 to 4 new members**** and your name is entered for each member you recruit for a one-year free membership in AER (life members would receive a prize of equivalent value)

✧ ***Recruit 5 to 9 new members**** and receive an AER logo item, as well as have your name entered for each member you recruit to win one week of a free mid-size rental car.

✧ ***Recruit 10 or more new members**** and receive an AER publication, as well as have your name entered for each member you recruit to win a free conference registration for an AER International Conference.

✧ Become ***Recruiter of the Year*** by recruiting the most new AER members* and receive airfare and hotel accommodations to the AER International Conference in Denver, Colorado, in 2000. In addition, the Recruiter of the Year will receive a commemorative plaque, presented at one of the general sessions during the Conference. (In case of a tie, the member who brought in the most new members first will be selected as the Recruiter of the Year.)

Here's How You Can Win!

1. Simply print your name on the "Sponsor's Name" line of the enclosed membership application and give it to a colleague. Consider taking a supply of the enclosed membership applications to conferences, seminars, and other meetings within the field. AER Advantage Dollars will be distributed upon receipt of the new member's application. Additional prizes will be distributed in January 2000.
2. Contact AER (phone 703-823-9690 or e-mail aer@aerbvi.org) for additional applications, or feel free to photocopy the enclosed application and benefits flyer.

*New member constitutes someone who has not been an AER member in the last 12 months.

of the Blind and Visually Impaired
4600 Duke Street, Suite 430
Alexandria, VA 22304
www.aerbvi.org



Division Docket

Division 7 – Low Vision

Upcoming Low Vision Certification Exams have been scheduled for April 24, 1999, at the Vision Center of Central Ohio, in Columbus, OH; April 26, 1999, at the Colorado School for the Blind, in Colorado Springs, CO; May 7, 1999, at the Tucson Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired, in Tucson, AZ; and September 18, 1999, at the VA Hospital – Blind Rehab Center, in Tucson, AZ. In order to sit for one of these exams, certification applications and exam registrations must be in the AER central office two weeks prior to the exam date. ■

Division 10 – Elementary and Secondary Curriculum for Children

Division 10 (formerly Division 12 and Division 13) has completed work on its bylaws. Leaders of the Division met in Austin during AER-Lift to set goals for the Division and its members. ■

Division 11 – Rehabilitation Teaching

Division 11 will present a pioneer award to Ruth Kaarlela, MSW, at the Rehabilitation Teaching 1999 Conference in Kalamazoo, MI, in July. Ms. Kaarlela was instrumental in the development of the Rehabilitation Teaching program at Western Michigan University. For more information, contact Lisa-Anne Soucy at 914-831-7199. ■

Division 16 – Itinerant Personnel

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Yesterday's News, by Gregory Goodrich

In two columns of *Yesterday's News* last year, I highlighted important anniversaries, those of the VA's Blind Rehabilitation Service and the Canadian National Institute for the Blind. A third anniversary occurred last year that should not be overlooked, a 130th anniversary at that! In 1866 a London surgeon, Dr. Thomas Rhodes Armitage (who worked with Florence Nightingale in the Crimean War) lost his sight at the peak of his career. Rather than retire from an active life he chose to accept his blindness as a challenge. He

spent the years 1866 to 1868 investigating the conditions of blind individuals in London, finding that the educational system for blind individuals was a "perfect chaos," in large part due to the lack of a single, effective embossed code. In 1868 a self-appointed committee met at Armitage's house and formed the British and Foreign Society for Improving the Embossed Literature of the Blind. By 1870 this group reported favorably on Braille as the most suitable embossed code. The group's purpose evolved over the years as was reflected in the changes to its name,

which soon became the British and Foreign Blind Association for Promoting the Education and Employment of the Blind (which most shortened to the British and Foreign Blind Association). In 1914 the name changed again to the National Institute for the Blind. The term "Royal" was added in 1953. So happy anniversary to the Royal National Institute for the Blind, founded 131 years ago, and going strong in continuing and expanding the work begun in 1868 by Dr. Armitage and his embossed literature committee. ■

Through the Years *by Michael J. Bina, Past President, AER*

The second article in a series by AER past presidents in celebration of AER's 15th anniversary in 1999.

"The Home Court Advantage"

When I was asked to reflect on my most vivid memory of my term as AER President, what immediately and clearly came into my mind were countless individual AER members across the United States and Canada actively involved at the chapter and division levels. To me, the chapter and division levels are the neighborhood fields and the courts where we, as professionals, exercise and strengthen our muscles needed in our practice of delivering services.

One of the opportunities and privileges that I had during my tenure as president was to visit many of the AER chapter and regional conferences. While my ear could detect different regional accents, my eyes clearly saw a consistent picture. The conferences, without exception, were very well planned. It was obvious that much hard work had gone into them. All the myriad of details associated with speakers, audio visual equipment, conference programs, awards presentations, meals, hotel accommodations, etc., were well taken care of. I often saw "tired" people, as a result of their hard work, but I never saw evidence of people "tiring" when it came to making sure their fellow AER member had rich opportunity for new information, professional growth, networking, and support of fellow professionals.

It is these individual AER members that stick in mind that make AER an organization well worth the cost of membership alone. Denise Rozell's

observation, expressed soon after her becoming AER's second Executive Director, validates my point. Denise was struck by how genuinely committed AER members are, and how enthusiastically hard they work — and to think, she observed, they do so in a volunteer, non-paid capacity! She recognized that AER members also have responsibility at home for their own family and at work for students or clients (their paid job), yet they willingly take on added duties in AER to support their fellow professional colleagues. She was most impressed!

As I reflect on these AER members, they have greatly enriched me. I learned from them, have been reassured, consoled, encouraged, and inspired. They have made me think, see different points of view, and have been good teachers. As New Mexico's Bill Davis sees it, "These AER folks are good for my brain cells!"

We should all be proud to be part of such an impressive service delivery cadre. As professionals, we probably down play the major and most positive impact we have on not only the students and clients we serve, but also on the careers, and moreover, the lives and well-being of colleagues with whom we associate.

AER is the field and the court on which this all happens. Whenever I visited a chapter on the east or west coast of our countries or in the heartland, I never got the feeling that I was a visitor or an outsider. I always felt I was at home. We share a common professional language and we have a common purpose to support each other as service providers. Therefore, never feeling like a visi-

tor, wherever I went, I was always on the home court. AER provides the professionals in our blindness field with a home field or home court advantage. We are always surrounded by a friendly, supportive crowd!

AER's strength and appeal to me is that it is evolving into a distinct grass roots "bottom up" organization. Its members form a very rich pool of talented, caring, genuine, unselfish, and dedicated direct service providers. AER-Lift was designed as a leadership training program to tap this unblossomed talent for AER at the grass root level.

An association is only as good, as strong, and as effective as its individual members. Judging from the individuals I have met at the local chapter and division levels, I can confidently conclude our association is strong, but it clearly could be stronger.

Not only do we have to recruit new members and retain current ones, to grow and gain in strength, we must also "recruit" our current AER members who are "undrafted free agents" sitting in the audience or on the bench at courtside. They are AER members, but not fully involved AER members. That is our, not their, fault. In most cases, no one has asked them, and I suspect many are waiting and would get involved, if asked. By getting them involved, they will get "pumped up," and with such an advantageous home field advantage, I look forward, long into my retirement, to continuing to be supported by my colleagues, and belonging to a championship, winning team! ■



The Eastern Unit of Missouri Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers has named AER member **Doris Westfall** as Social Worker of the Year, and AER Corporate Member **St. Louis Society for the Blind and Visually Impaired** as Agency of the Year. AER member **David Ekin** serves as Executive Director of the Society. Both honors also serve as nominations for the state awards to be given in the fall. ■

Dr. Charles M. Bernardo will retire from the position of Superintendent of The Governor Morehead School for the Blind, effective August 15, 1999, culminating a 41 year public and private career in education and training. Interspersed with service in the US Marine Corps, his appointments spanned teacher, principal, university research fellow, superintendent, state superintendent, and executive roles inclusive of Pacific Consultants, the ITT Community

Development Corporation and the major school superintendencies of Providence, Montgomery County (MD) and the State of Utah. ■

Kudos to **Dr. Gaylen Kapperman**, Northern Illinois University professor, project director of Research and Development, Inc., as the recipient of the Illinois AER's Outstanding Educator of the Year Award. ■

The Utah Chapter of AER is proud to announce that **Dr. John Crandell** was the recipient of the Ruth Craig Meritorious Award, **Lois Maxwell** was the presented the Outstanding Services to the Blind and Visually Impaired Award, and **Bryan Gerritsen** was selected as the recipient of the Outstanding Services to AER Award. ■

The NYSAER is pleased to announce that **Carol Hile**, was selected as the recipient of the Ann Range Children's Service Award; **Diane DeJong** was awarded the Nat Seaman Recognition Award; a second Nat Seaman Award was presented to **Khogendra Das**;

and **Anne Hersee**, received the Past Presidents Award. ■

AER Member **Nancy Miller** has been selected to receive an "Above and Beyond the Call Award" from the United Way of New York City. This award honors individuals from both the agency and corporate communities whose efforts on behalf of the United Way have been "above and beyond the call of duty." ■

Wisconsin AER sadly said adieu to **Judy Holmes**, who took a position in Michigan this past January. Judy was a strong and active member of the chapter and will be greatly missed, especially by her colleagues in the Milwaukee Public Schools. Joining the MPS staff is **Diana McMenemy** a recent graduate of Western Michigan University. ■

In Memoriam...

AER is saddened to inform you that **Bill Springer**, an active AER member from the DC-Maryland Chapter, passed away at his home on March 14, from bone cancer. ■

A Very Special Thank You

A very special thank you goes out to the following members for their generous contributions to AER's MacFarland Stipend Fund, Lowenfeld Publications Fund, and General Operating Fund:

Mr. & Mrs. Carl Augusto (NJ)
Carolyn Mae Hathaway (OH)
Peggy Madera (IL)
John Naler (VA)

★ **Gary W. Everhart (TX)**
★ **Joseph Parks Hill (GA)**
★ **John McMahon (MI)**
★ **Virginia Stolarski (NY)**

★ **Betsy Harris (TX)**
★ **Donald Koors (IN)**
★ **Eleanor Mink (AZ)**
★ **Richard Welsh (PA)**

Thank you all for helping us to support those who provide services to people with visual impairments. ■

Across the Spectrum



An information exchange focusing on literature which references blindness or low vision

Submitted by: Gregory Goodrich
Journal Reference: *Journal of Pediatric Ophthalmology & Strabismus*, Nov/Dec 98, Vol. 35, No. 6, pp. 312-319

Article: "Assessing Visual Function in Children Younger than 1 1/2 Years with Normal and Subnormal Vision: Evaluation of Methods"

Author: Agneta Rydberg and Birgit Ericson

Reprint requests to: Agneta Rydberg, Department of Ophthalmology, Karolinska Institute Huddinge University Hospital, S-141 86 Huddinge, Sweden ■

Submitted by: Gregory Goodrich
Journal Reference: *INSIGHT*, June 1998, Vol. 23, No. 2, pp. 48-52

Article: "Driving with a Visual Impairment"

Author: Mark Wilkinson

Reprint requests to: Mark Wilkinson, University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics, Department of Ophthalmology, 200 Hawkins Road, PFP, Iowa City, IA 52242-1091 ■

Submitted by: Gregory Goodrich
Journal Reference: *INSIGHT*, June 1998, Vol. 23, No. 2, pp. 53-58

Article: "The Ophthalmic Registered Nurse's Responsibility to the Adult Patient with Low Vision"

Author: Pat Allen and Jane Shepherd

Reprint requests to: Pat Allen, 2720 Thompson Drive, Ames, IA 50010 ■

Submitted by: Gregory Goodrich
Journal Reference: *The Diabetes Educator*, Jul/Aug 1998, Vol. 24, No. 4, pp. 481-484

Article: "Psychosocial Sequelae of Vision Loss in Diabetes"

Author: Daniel Cox, Brian Kieran, Deborah Schroeder, and Marianne Cowley

Reprint requests to: The Diabetes Educator, 367 West Chicago Avenue, Chicago, IL 60610-3025 ■

Submitted by: Gregory Goodrich
Journal Reference: *Journal of Pediatric Ophthalmology & Strabismus*, Nov/Dec 1997, Vol. 34, No. 6, pp. 347-356

Article: "Constriction of the Visual Field of Children After Early Visual Deprivation"

Author: Elizabeth Bowering, Daphne Maurer, Terri Lewis, and Henry Brent

Reprint requests to: Elizabeth Bowering, Department of Psychology, Mount St. Vincent University, 166 Bedford Highway, Halifax, Nova Scotia Canada B3M 2J6 ■

Submitted by: Gregory Goodrich
Journal Reference: *INSIGHT*, March 1998, Vol. 23, No. 1, pp. 5-10

Article: "Role of Ophthalmic Nurses with Visually Impaired Patients"

Author: Willow Barton

Reprint requests to: Willow Barton, Department of Ophthalmology, Veteran Administration Puget Sound Health Care System, 1660 S. Columbian Way, Seattle, WA 98108 ■

Submitted by: Gregory Goodrich
Journal Reference: *The British Journal of Visual Impairment*, Jan. 1999, Vol. 17, No. 1, pp. 5-10

Article: "Size Counts: The Significance of Size, Font, and Style of Print for Readers with Low Vision Sitting Examinations"

Author: Marianna Buultjens, Stuart Aitken, John Ravenscroft, and

Kevin Carey
Reprint requests to: Marianna Buultjens, Department of Equity Studies & Special Education < University of Edinburgh, Holyrood Road, Edinburgh EH8 8AQ ■

Submitted by: Gregory Goodrich
Journal Reference: *The British Journal of Visual Impairment*, Jan. 1999, Vol. 17, No. 1, pp. 17-22

Article: "Reading and Writing Media and Methods Used and Preferred by a Sample of Visually Impaired Adults"

Author: Robert Hesketh

Reprint requests to: Robert Hesketh, RNIB Manor House, Mid Lincombe Road, Torquay, Devon TQ1 2NG ■

Submitted by: Gregory Goodrich
Journal Reference: *The British Journal of Visual Impairment*, Jan. 1999, Vol. 17, No. 1, pp. 31-35

Article: "Job Satisfaction Amongst Visually Impaired People in Germany: Results of a Study"

Author: A. Keller, B. Schretzmann, and R. Stegie ■

Submitted by: Gregory Goodrich
Journal Reference: *The British Journal of Visual Impairment*, Jan. 1999, Vol. 17, No. 1, pp. 36-40

Article: "Case Studies: Reflections on the Meaning of Blindness in the Life Experiences of Four New Zealanders (Part One of Two)"

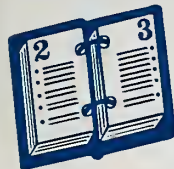
Author: Nancy Higgins and Keith Ballard

Reprint requests to: Nancy Higgins & Keith Ballard, Education Department, University of Otago, PO Box 56, Dunedin, New Zealand ■

Submitted by: Gregory Goodrich
Journal Reference: *The British Journal of Visual Impairment*, Jan. 1999, Vol. 17, No. 1, pp. 41-44

Article: "Commentary: Psychological Aspects of Visual Impairment"

Author: Sonja Baus ■



Calendar of Events

May 3-6, 1999 – Guiding Eyes for the Blind O&M and Rehabilitation professionals seminar. Contact David See (914) 243-2254 or GEBDave@aol.com. ■

May 20-22, 1999 - "Safe Without Sight: Crime Prevention and Self-Defense Strategies for People Who Are Blind" a workshop for professionals who will learn the curriculum to bring the training back to their home communities and clients. Center for the Visually Impaired, Atlanta, GA. Contact Scott McCall at (404) 875-9011 or for a printed or e-mail flyer, Wendy David via e-mail at [wendydav@cris.com](mailto:<wendydav@cris.com>) >. ■

July 3-9, 1999 – American Council of the Blind National Convention, Air-

port Westin Hotel, Los Angeles CA. Contact: John Herst (800) 424-8666. ■

July 12-16, 1999 – Vision '99: International Conference on Low Vision, The Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, New York City, NY, hosted by Lighthouse International. Contact: (212) 821-9482. ■

July 23-26, 1999 – Guiding Eyes for the Blind O&M and Rehabilitation professionals seminar. Contact David See (914) 243-2254 or GEBDave@aol.com. ■

August 5-8, 1999 — Foundation Fighting Blindness Annual Conference, Century Plaza Hotel & Towers, Los Angeles, CA. Contact: 410-784-1414. ■

October 18-21, 1999 – Guiding Eyes for the Blind O&M and Rehabilitation professionals seminar. Contact David See (914) 243-2254 or GEBDave@aol.com. ■

October 27-29, 1999 – NE/AER Conference - Four Points Hotel Sheraton Dorval, Montreal, Quebec. ■

October 28-29, 1999 – Wisconsin AER Conference, Regency Suites, Green Bay, Wisconsin. Contact: Jennifer McKeown (414) 615-0123. ■

October 31-November 1, 1999 – NYAER Chapter Conference, The Sagamore, Lake George, NY ■

November 3-5, 1999 — Tri-State (IN, KY, OH) AER conference, Best Western Hotel & Conference Center, Cincinnati, OH. Contact: Marianne Mundy (513) 761-9059 or e-mail: gmundy9207@aol.com ■

Correction: July 27-August 1, 2000 – American Association of the Deaf-Blind Convention, Columbus, OH. Contact: Joy Larson (301) 588-6545. ■

What Year Was It? The AER Timeline Quiz!

Test your knowledge of AER's 15-year history. See if you can correctly guess what year the following events took place. (Answers below.)



1. The Arkansas chapter wins the Outstanding Chapter Award.
2. AER Board of Directors approved the implementation of the Rehabilitation Teaching University Guidelines.
3. West Virginia receives its charter as an official AER Chapter.
4. AER Board of Directors approves the name change of Division 4 from Social Work and Psychology to Psychosocial Services.
5. American Foundation for the Blind presents AER with an endowment of \$1.1 million.
6. John Ed Chiles won the Mary K. Bauman Award and William F. Gallagher was the recipient of the Ambrose M. Shotwell Award.

Answers: 1. 1994; 2. 1990; 3. 1998; 4. 1985; 5. 1984; 6. 1992



Outside AER ...

The World Blind Union, By Sharon Zell Sacks, AER's World Blind Union Representative

Editor's Note: As mentioned in the February edition of AER Report, "Outside AER" is a new column that will highlight AER's involvement with "outside" groups addressing a wide variety of diverse issues that impact the field of blindness, disabilities, and other larger policy questions. Within each outside organization or task force, an AER represented is appointed to represent our membership. This column will consist of a brief report from a representative of the different committees and/or task forces.

AER has played an active role in the World Blind Union for a number of years. The overall purpose of the World Blind Union is to pro-

tect the rights and advancement of individuals who are blind or visually impaired throughout the world. AER is a member of the North American/Caribbean Region of the World Blind Union.

On a regional level, efforts are afoot to increase membership among Caribbean countries in the region. Also, the region is heavily involved in issues that relate to access technology, vision and aging, advocacy efforts to maintain specialized programs in education and rehabilitation, and research in statistics on visual impairment.

The regional committee has a particular interest in the activities of the World Blind Union Committee on the status of blind women. Ef-

forts are underway to develop leadership and social skills training for visually impaired female teens in the United States and Canada. Also, research will be undertaken to explore the differences in the status of blind women in North America and in other countries.

Along with AER, the other members of the World Blind Union include the American Council of the Blind, American Foundation for the Blind, American Printing House for the Blind, National Federation of the Blind, Canadian National Institute for the Blind, Canadian Council of the Blind, Sir Arthur Pearson War Blind Association, and Blind Veterans Association. ■

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AERwaves

*by Denise M. Rozell,
Executive Director*

As I have talked to you at AER Chapter meetings, read your messages on the listserv, and taken your phone calls over the past year, one of the issues that has come up over and over again is the shortage of personnel in this field, and the accompanying caseload sizes and numbers of people who are not receiving needed services. This is true not only in education, but also in service delivery for all ages and in all settings. There are a myriad of ways to address this issue, and AER is involved in many of them, but let me touch on one here that is timely and where you can be of help.

We here in Washington, DC, know that when the snows start to melt and the crocuses start to bloom (a little late this year) it's time to talk of money

and the federal budget and appropriations process. This year, with the successful reauthorization of the Rehabilitation Act behind us, the IDEA regulations just released and the very real possibility of new money for some programs, there is special impetus to work on appropriations. Money to train personnel to implement some of those new provisions could make or break their effectiveness.

In education, the possibility of additional money allocated to IDEA, similar to the large increases we have seen in the last several years, looks promising. If the increase this year were to be similar to the one we saw last year, there would be \$500 million in new money added to IDEA. Unfortunately, any new money is currently being earmarked entirely for the Part B, State Grant program with no increases projected for personnel prep. The addition of only \$16.4 million (of that \$500 million) to the personnel prep programs would be a 20% increase to the

current appropriation, from \$82 million to \$98.4 million. The long term training money, which funds most of the personnel prep under Rehab, is also looking at close to level funding, just as it has for the last several years.

What can you do? Write or call your Member of Congress about the personnel shortages in the field; the difficulty in finding qualified professionals to provide the services that you do; the people who are not getting services they need; what your caseload is like. Tell them about the need for additional personnel prep moneys in IDEA and Rehab. And, don't forget to explain to them while you have them, why our clients and students need specially-trained, qualified professionals to provide those services. That phone call, e-mail or letter could make the difference in the number of vision teachers, rehab teachers, or orientation and mobility specialists who serve people who are blind or visually impaired. Aren't our clients and students worth it?■



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AER Report

Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired

Board Approves New Membership

Category by Peggy Madera, 1998-2000 AER President

In the December 1998 *AER Report*, I wrote a letter to you, the members, responding to some of the issues surrounding the dues increase. At that time, I mentioned that we would look into the feasibility of implementing some of the suggestions that had been made by members. Specifically, the Board asked the AER staff to report on the possibility of initiating a "same household

membership" at a discounted rate, and the practicality of an "installment payment plan." At the April Board meeting the Board took action on both.

The "same household membership" would be an additional full membership category available where two or more AER members live at

the same residential address. Of these members, the member with the earliest renewal date would be considered the first member from the household and would pay the full membership fee. Subsequent members from the household, with later renewal dates, would become the "same household members" and would receive the discounted

(Continued on page 16)

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Board Moves AER Certification to The Academy

By Eileen Siffermann, COMS, and Barbara Hunt

Editor's note: In a landmark decision at its April meeting, the AER Board of Directors approved the plan recommended by the Steering Management Committee on Certification to move AER's current certification program to an entity of its own. The entity will be known as The Academy for Certification of Rehabilitation and Education Professionals, and will be managed by a separate board of directors and staff outside of AER. (See the related article on page 1 of the February 1999 AER Report.) Barring unforeseen complications, the anticipated date to turn over the certification programs to The Academy will be January 1, 2000. The following addresses the history and rationale behind the Board's decision.

Since early in 1998, the AER Board of Directors has been supportive in the investigation of moving the AER certification process toward a newly developed external body independent of the membership organization. We hope that the creation of this independent certification entity will enhance the legitimacy of vision rehabilitation and education professional certification, protect the membership organization from legal issues, and strengthen the posture of state initiatives for eventual state licensure.

AER's Mission:

To develop and promote professional excellence through support of those who provide services to people with visual impairments.



From the President

"COMMENCEMENTS"

This *AER Report* is scheduled to arrive sometime around the 21st of June, which, of course, is when summer officially commences. It also marks the end of "graduation season." I clearly remember the first graduation ceremony that I ever attended. I was 10 years old and my oldest sister was graduating from 8th grade. That day, while I should have been paying attention to the graduation, I was busy trying to figure out why the booklet read "Commencement Ceremony." I knew darn well that the word "commence" meant "begin" and therefore "commencement" must mean "beginning." Yet this was an event to celebrate the "end" of grammar school. I was confused.

Despite my perplexity, I somehow managed to pay attention to the "commencement" address given by the principal, Sister Mary Corona. She talked about the years these students had spent at the school and all they had accomplished. But then, she began to speak of their future. She told the graduates that the coming years in high school, college and beyond, would be filled with opportunity. Sister reminded them that this day not only marked an end to their years in grammar school, but also the "beginning" of their lives as young adults. "The beginning?" AHA!!! I GOT IT!!! I smugly sat through the rest of the "commencement" enjoying my new knowledge.

Every year when I hear the word "commencement" I remember that

moment when the term first made sense to me. Since then I have attended a few dozen commencement ceremonies. Each one somehow addresses the same concept, that graduation marks not only "an end" but also a "new beginning."

Soon we will see "an end" to something that has been a fundamental part of AER since its inception. We anticipate that as of January 1, 2000, AER will no longer continue its certification program. Certification was established because it was essential to the teachers working at the residential schools. Subsequently, certification for Orientation & Mobility Specialists, Rehabilitation Teachers, and Low Vision Therapists was also initiated. On page 1 you will find a related article detailing the reason for this change, and the future of certification. You will learn that the end of certification by AER does not mean the end of professional certification in the field of education and rehabilitation of people with visual impairments.

The end of certification by AER marks the "commencement" of a new organization, The Academy for Certification of Vision Rehabilitation and Education Professionals. As with any commencement event, we will first focus on the "way things were" and all the accomplishments we have made. AER has granted certificates to over 3,335 individuals during the past 15 years. We are proud of AER's Certification program. It served the needs of our members, and helped to strengthen the profession. But,



Peggy Madera, AER President

now it is time to focus on the future. We have reached a point of maturity when we have the strength, courage and wherewithal to take this important step. It is time to establish a separate certifying body outside of AER, the membership organization. This change may involve some risks, uncertainties, or skepticism. But that is true of any "commencement." New beginnings are scary, yet filled with excitement from all the possibilities. It is always difficult to give up something, even if we know it is the right thing to do. Those who have watched their children head off to college know the mixed feelings of the sadness of letting go, and the happiness of witnessing a new beginning.

When The Academy comes into being next January, there will not be any playing of "*Pomp and Circumstance*." There will be no mortarboards or gowns. There will not be a procession or ceremony. Nevertheless, it will be an important "commencement." If I were to give the commencement address, I

would tell you the same thing that I remember thinking at my own graduation from graduate school. "This day is a time marker." My graduation marked the beginning of my life as a professional. In regards to my professional life, I reference time as BG or PG (before graduation or post graduation).

Those of us who have been in the field over 15 years often reference events that took place prior to 1984 as happening "before we were AER." Likewise, in terms of certification, we will soon be saying "before The Academy." It marks the beginning of a new era,

and is the most important "birth" in our profession since the inception of AER.

A task force of AER members will spend the next six months preparing for the opening of The Academy. Just like all parents who want to make sure that their child gets a good start in any new endeavor, we (AER), as the parent organization, are eager to set things in place to assure a smooth transition and a successful start for The Academy.

On January 1, 2000, there will be giant celebrations throughout the world. We will be focused on this

important moment in history, (and perhaps worrying a little about the threats of Y2K problems). While the media is busy capturing all the "firsts" of the year 2000, we anticipate that The Academy will make a humble and barely noticed entry into our professional world. When that happens, I, for one, will be carrying a hankie. I tend to get teary at the sound of *Auld Lang Syne*, births, weddings and graduations. In other words, "commencements make me cry!" ■

Peggy Madera

(Certification from page 1)

In April of 1998, the AER Board of Directors approved expenditures for the appointment of a Steering Committee to move this endeavor forward. The committee's membership was: George Zimmerman and Dennis Lolli as co-chairs; Patrika Greigo, Gale Watson, Barbara Hunt, and Eileen Siffermann as representatives of the current AER Certification Programs; David Ekin, Peggy Madera and Sharon Sacks as representatives of the Board of Directors. Along with AER Executive Director Denise Rozell, the Committee met in May 1998. The outcome of this meeting was a preliminary draft of bylaws and the identification of several issues needing further discussion.

During the AER International Conference held the summer of 1998 in Atlanta, the Committee held its second meeting to further discuss issues of concern and plans for the future. The Committee, now referred to as the Steering Management Committee on Certification, had a third meeting in January of 1999. George Zimmerman and Dennis Lolli continued as the co-chairs. Members present at the meeting were Patrika Griego, Gale Watson, Barbara Hunt, and Eileen Siffermann, representatives of AER Certification Programs; Greg Goodrich, Billy Brookshire and Peggy Madera, representatives of the Board of Directors; David Ekin, who continued to serve on the Committee as representative of employers of certified personnel, and Denise Rozell. Unable to attend this meeting was Bill Wiener.

The focus of the January meeting was the participation of Susan Dorn, Esq., Dorn & Klamp, P.C., an experienced lawyer in the area of certification. She provided us with information and clarification on how to move towards the goal of an external certification body. She provided feedback to the drafted bylaws and made several recommendations for revision, she outlined cost considerations and made us feel that such costs would be reasonable and she gave us encouragement to move forward. The final session of the weekend meeting concluded with several recommendations. These recommendations were presented to the AER Board in the form of motions at its April 1999 meeting in Austin, Texas. The Board approved the establishment of The Academy, its draft bylaws, the appointment of a Transition Task Force to develop an implementation plan and funding for that plan.

As members of this committee, the dynamic interaction and the consensus for action was impressive. Our thanks to George and Dennis for their leadership and to the AER Board of Directors for its progressive thinking and support of this most important effort. ■

AER Report is published six times a year as a membership service. Chapters, divisions, and individual members are encouraged to submit items of interest for publication to:

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AER Report provides for the publication of materials that may represent divergent ideas, judgments, and opinions.

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The AER Advantage



Well, we're on our way to reaching our new member goals! "*The AER Advantage*," 1999 Member-Get-A-Member Campaign, which began on May 1st, is off to a fantastic start!

Check out the following list of sponsors and new members, which were recruited during the first two weeks of our campaign. Many thanks and congratulations to our first sponsors for their recruitment efforts. *AER Advantage Dollars*

are on the way to these new member sponsors!

It's not too late to be a sponsor yourself! Simply share *The AER Advantage* information sent to you in the April *AER Report* with a colleague. If you need additional applications, please contact the AER office or download the application off the web site at www.aerbvi.org. It's that easy!

Remember, everyone benefits when we share *The AER Advantage!*■

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 Philip Rockstein (NJ)■

Additional new AER members are listed on page 17.



AER Board Briefs

The 1998-2000 AER Board of Directors held its spring meeting on April 8-9, 1999, in Austin, Texas, immediately preceding AER-Lift. The following is a synopsis of the items discussed during the meeting and action that was taken:

- AER's 1999 audit and management letter were presented and approved by the Board.
- The Board approved a plan that allows divisions to share in the net gain or loss that AER earns on its investment portfolio in a given year. This replaces the previous policy which allowed Divisions to invest in Certificates of Deposit.
- Staff reported the hiring Vince Martino and the opening of AER's Canadian office (Related article on page 8).
- Staff reported that Meetings and More, a conference planning firm in Burtonsville, MD, has been hired to manage the 2000 International Conference in Denver and to negotiate space for the 2004 conference in a location as yet undetermined.
- The Board approved a process for determining the programming for the 2000 International Conference. The Call for Papers went out in mid-May and

submissions are due back July 1, 1999. Submissions will be ranked by the relevant Divisions with the final programming decided by a smaller group appointed by the Board of Directors representing the Divisions. (Related article on page 7).

- The Board approved a new "Same Household" membership category (Related article on page 1).
- The Board voted to remove the current Chair of Division 2 – Vocational Rehabilitation Counseling & Employment Services and declare that position open pursuant to the AER Policy Manual. According to the Division 2 bylaws, the Chair-elect automatically becomes Chair for the remainder of the term.
- The Board approved, on the recommendation of the Steering Management Committee on Certification, that AER establish a process to incorporate "The Academy for Certification of Vision Rehabilitation and Education Professionals" (The Academy) as the legal entity to assume responsibility and authority for the administration of all AER certification programs. The Board also ap-

proved draft bylaws for The Academy, the appointment of a Transition Task Force to develop a plan for implementation, and funding to implement that plan (Related article on page 1).

- The Board approved a motion from the Continuing Education Committee that AER's first topical, off year conference (in 2001) be cosponsored by AER in conjunction with the American Foundation for the Blind on the topic of Technology for Persons with Visual Impairments, and that the conference should be held in the northeast area of the US (since the 2000 AER conference will be in Denver).
- The Chair of the Strategic Planning Committee, Bill Wiener, updated the Board on the next steps in developing the association's strategic plan. The Board decided to take the next step to the attendees at AER-Lift so that leaders of AER's Divisions and Chapters had direct input into the strategic plan.

If you have any questions regarding these items or any other issues regarding the recent Board of Directors meeting, please contact Denise Rozell at AER. ■

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AND DEDICATION TO
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Candice Bergen

*From Public Service Announcement
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The New Millennium Brings Changes to AER's 2000 International Conference

Mark your calendars *NOW* because you won't want to miss the 2000 AER International Conference, **July 15-19, 2000**, at the Adams Mark Hotel in Denver, Colorado! (Important note: previously published dates were incorrect.)

Through an outstanding conference program built around our theme, "**AERodynamics: Soaring to New Heights**," AER is preparing to help you face the challenges and opportunities that the dynamics of a new era bring. Our theme truly captures the essence of Denver, the beautiful mile-high city, and the possibilities that lay ahead for AER's members.

After analysis of data collected from the previous conference evaluations, AER is making some positive changes to the makeup of the 2000 International Conference program.

We'll be mixing in these changes, such as new presentation length options, a less structured conference program allowing you to participate in sessions covering a broader scope of topics, and new AER flash sessions which are comprised of four 15-minute oral presentations on a plethora of topics, along with some of the old favorites from the past, including poster sessions, plenty of exhibit hall time, the MacFarland Medical Update

seminar, hands-on workshops with exhibitors, plus much more!

The formal Call for Papers was recently mailed to AER members, and submissions are due by July 1, 1999. All members are encouraged to share their knowledge and experience in the field by submitting a presentation on any topic. Remember, if the hour or hour and a half presentation times are not for you, consider developing a poster presentation or a 15-minute flash session! The opportunities to soar at the Denver conference are endless!

If you need additional copies of the Call for Papers, please call AER or download the form from AER's web site. ■

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AMBUTECH



Canadian Corner

by Vince Martino, Canadian AER Coordinator

As my first official duty, it gives me great pleasure to announce the official opening of the AER Canadian office, which opened its doors on April 12, 1999!

Thanks go to Ann MacCuspie, Linda Studholme, Beverly Ginou, Wendy Nichols, Pauline Bevers, Lynda Fall, Elaine Todd, Joanna Miller, Cheryl Richesin, Paul Barber, Freya Martinot, Alan Kirk, Fred Poon, Linda Mamer, Cay Holbrook, the present and past AER Board of Directors, and all others who worked so hard through the years to help bring the vision of an AER Canadian office to a reality.

Special thank you, too, goes to Perry Leslie and Dean Nancy Sheehan of the University of British Columbia for their generosity in housing the office free of charge.

I am a graduate of the Orientation and Mobility Certificate Program from Mohawk College in Brantford, Ontario, Canada. I have been a member of AER since 1995. I will be working in the office one-day a week, on Mondays, from 9:00-4:30 (Pacific Time). When I'm not in, an answering machine will be available to take your calls.

Over the course of this one-year pilot project, some of the major goals are:

- Production of three Canadian AER Reports (newsletters). The newsletter will emphasize

Canadian content and issues relevant to Canadian members. The first newsletter is scheduled to go out in the first week in June, followed by a newsletter in October and in January 2000.

- Increase Canadian membership. By attending conferences, and conducting poster sessions, I will be promoting and highlighting AER and its benefits. *The AER Advantage* program is a new exciting membership program that will be emphasized.
- Development of a registry of organizations, companies, and agencies who work with individuals who are blind or visually impaired.
- Research established organizations, e.g. Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) and examine strategies that focus on their Canadian membership.
- Explore strategies which can be incorporated to better serve our Canadian AER membership.
- Research options available for group insurance for Canadian O&M Instructors, Rehabilitation Instructors, and Vision Teachers.
- Connect with federal and provincial government agencies and gather information as to the status of services for indi-

viduals who are blind or visually impaired, in the areas of education, rehabilitation, and orientation and mobility.

- Facilitate the communication between Canadian AER chapters, and AER Divisions, and assist in chapter development.

Please don't hesitate to call or write. I look forward to hearing from you. Your opinions, suggestions and concerns will help to foster the development of your Canadian office.

To contact the AER Canadian Office, write to Vince Martino, Canadian AER Coordinator, AER Canadian Office, University of British Columbia, 2125 Main Mall, SCARFE, Rm.2309, Vancouver, BC, Canada, V6T 1Z4, call: (604) 822-0871, fax: (604) 822-3302 or e-mail: aercan@aerbvi.org. ■

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RE:sources

From: Foundation for Blind Children

Arizona Perkins Braille Repair Service (ABRS), which is a co-operative enterprise between the AZ Instructional Resource Center (AIRC) of the Foundation for Blind Children and an Arizona State Prison, is up and running again. For information, contact AIRC at (602) 678-5810.■

From: Eschenbach

Eschenbach announces its professional education schedule for June. The seminar, Dispensing Low Vision Aids, is an in-depth, hands-on workshop developed to assist those interested in

low vision. For schedule and fee information, contact Eschenbach, toll-free, at (877) 422-7300.■

From: Royal National Institute for the Blind

RNIB announces the update of its publications catalogue, which contains information on over 50 new and revised titles. For a free copy of Publications Catalogue Update: February 1999, phone 0345-02 31 53 (London) or on the internet at www.rnib.org.uk.■

From: Henter-Joyce, Inc.

Henter-Joyce, Inc., is honored to announce that its JAWS for Windows Screen Reader Software became part of the Permanent Research Collection on Information Technology at the Smithsonian's National Museum of

American History on April 12, 1999. For more details, contact (800) 336-5658.■

From: Betacom Corporation

The VisAble, the world's first Low Vision Scientific Calculator, is now available from Betacom. It's an easy to use, fully portable calculator, with high contrast, enlarged display. For additional information, contact: (800) 353-1107.■

From: The Jewish Guild for the Blind

As part of its continuing efforts to educate and inform the country on issues relating to health care and vision loss, The Guild presents its new, free brochure, *A Guide for HIV/AIDS Caregivers...when assisting those with vision loss*. For details, contact (212) 769-6263.■

Late Manifestations of Congenital Rubella in Canada

A summary of the report that is now available. By Stan Munroe, submitted by Linda Mamer

One hundred individuals participated in a study to document the incidence of early and late emerging manifestations believed related to the congenital rubella syndrome in Canada. This project was conducted by the Canadian Deafblind and Rubella Association in 1997-1998.

Participants in the study ranged in age from five to 62 years. Three quarters of the respondents reported contracting congenital rubella during the major epidemic period of the 1960's and 1970's. Eight reported contracting rubella since the 1980's, while twenty contracted rubella prior to 1960. Individuals reported the following incidence rate of early manifestations of congenital rubella: visual loss (86%); hearing loss (93.9%); heart defect (65.7%); microcephaly (33.3%); combined visual loss and hearing loss (80.2%); combined visual loss, hearing loss, and heart defect (58.9%); combined visual loss, hearing loss, heart defect and microcephaly (23.9%). Congenital cataracts, reported by 79.6% of individuals, was responsible for most early visual loss. Glaucoma was reported by 32.3% of individuals.

The following later manifestations of congenital rubella were reported: glaucoma (20.8%), detached retina (11%), change in visual acuity from all causes (27%), change in hearing ability (24.1%), treatment for mental health (26.5%), reporting at least one of aggression, self injury, tantrums, and property destruction (23.2%), seizures (30%), incidence of one of scoliosis, kyphosis, lordosis (26%), deterioration in energy level, stamina and endurance (21%), clinically diagnosed with thyroid dysfunction (10%), clinically diagnosed with diabetes (12.1%), clinically diagnosed with osteoporosis (7.1%).

A copy of the full report may be obtained for \$15.00 plus shipping. Please contact: The Canadian Deafblind and Rubella Association, National Office, 350 Brant Avenue, Brantford, ON Canada N3T 3J9 Phone: (519) 754-0729 Fax: (519) 754-5400 Email: cdbra.nat@sympatico.ca■

CDC Report *By Barbara Hunt, Chair of the Council of Division Chairs*

The Council of Division Chairs held its annual business meeting at AER-Lift in Austin. During the meeting, a training session led by the CDC Executive Committee, Jana Almquist, Dona Sauerburger, Jay Stiteley, and Barb Hunt, was conducted. Included in the training was discussion of newsletters and tools for conducting productive meetings. Greg Goodrich, AER Treasurer, discussed AER investment policies and the importance of Division budgets.

Additionally, the new Council of Division Chair Policy Manuals were distributed to the Chairs of each Division. The Manual provides Division leaders with AER policies, Division guidelines, and information that will be useful in guiding the business of the divisions. A special thanks goes to Jana Almquist, representative for School Age Services, for her work in compiling the information and creating the manuals.

The following items were discussed at the annual business meeting:

- A committee was formed to decide the status of the McFarland Award.
- A survey developed by Nancy Toelle and a committee of CDC members was distributed to gather information concerning minimum requirements for divisions (i.e. what divisions should offer members, how divisions should communicate with members).
- Dan Brim, Chair-elect of Division 2, was moved into the position of Chair when the position of Chair was declared vacant by the AER Board of Directors. Division 2 will select a member to assume the role of Chair-elect for the remainder of the term of office.
- CDC voted to accept the recommendation of Division 10 (previously Divisions 12 and 13) to be known as "Education Curriculum Division."
- A committee was formed to determine the name for the current "School Age Services." The proposed name change will be submitted to the AER Board for approval.
- Division 18 currently does not meet the minimum standards for a division. A representative will be selected to assist Division 18 in determining the future of that division.
- All Divisions, which have computer listservs, are requested to send information concerning the listserv to AER Central Office.
- The next CDC business meeting will be held at the 2000 AER-Lift. ■

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Division Docket

Division 2 – Vocational Rehabilitation Counseling & Employment Services

Dan Brim was moved into the position of Division Chair for the remainder of this term. Dan will be working with members to identify a member to serve as chair-elect until the International Conference in 2000. ■

Division 7 – Low Vision

Division 7 will be holding the Low Vision Therapist Certification Exam at the Vision '99 Conference in New York City. The exam has been

scheduled for July 16, 1999, from 7:00 am to 8:30 am at the New York Lighthouse. Those interested in taking the exam on this date must submit certification applications and exam registration forms to AER by July 2, 1999. ■

Division 11 – Rehabilitation Teaching

The Rehabilitation Teaching Division reminds you that the Rehabilitation Teaching Conference will be held July 23-25, 1999, in Kalamazoo, MI. For details contact Lisa-Anne Soucy at (914) 831-7199. ■

Division 16 – Itinerant Personnel

The Scholarship Committee of Division 16 has been busy finalizing the details for applying for a scholarship for the Denver 2000 International AER Conference. Two \$500

scholarships will be awarded to division members to help them attend this conference. Watch for details in upcoming issues of *The Driving Force*, the Division 16 newsjournal. Thanks goes to the scholarship committee, Judy Cernkovich, Marybeth Dean, and Chrissy Cowen, for their hard work on this committee. ■

Division 17 – Personnel Preparation

There are currently four university programs that have had standards reviewed and are ready to be approved. The Division will announce approval in the future. There remains a shortage of personnel to work with persons who have visual impairments. Mechanisms for sharing job announcements have been discussed. ■



Yesterday's News, by Gregory Goodrich

"It is important to remember that only a part of the problem is optical. The use of magnification is not new, by any means. Nero used a polished gem as a magnifier. But the use of magnification in strengths helpful to those within the definition of blindness is not altogether easy, and it may be that several devices will be needed to meet varied requirements. Fitting the device to the person's individual needs and capabilities is a large portion of the job. The person who needs devices can help the specialist tremendously by understanding the picture, not just as regards

devices, but as regards his own capabilities as well. What is new in the field is the multiplication of new designs and the enrichment of general understanding as to their uses and possibilities.

At meetings of eye specialists, and in between, special courses on low vision have become more frequent and more thorough. At more and more teaching centers, clinics for low vision work are being established, as well as at hospitals and agencies for the blind. Manufacturers are cataloging an increasingly rich variety of devices of all sorts. People with impaired sight are over-coming fear of damage from

eye use and at the same time are coming to expect more from residual vision."

Excerpted from an article by Charles G. Ritter entitled "Questions and Answers on Low Vision." The article was printed in the October 1957 issue of *The New Outlook for the Blind* (Vol. 57, No. 10, pp. 446-53). Charles Ritter, who was the consultant on special aids and appliances at the American Foundation for the Blind, did much to advance the field of low vision, but few today recall the dramatic impact he had on the fledgling field of low vision. ■



Through the Years

The third article in a series by AER past presidents in celebration of AER's 15th anniversary in 1999.

I am happy for the opportunity to join my fellow AER Past Presidents in this column and to share one of my favorite memories and strongest impressions from my term as third President of AER. I really did not have to reflect long to select it, since I find myself often thinking about it and telling people about it these days as well.

As I traveled throughout the USA and Canada to chapters and regions for conferences, workshops, or committee meetings, I had the opportunity to meet and work with people I never would have known if it had not been for AER. As I talked and worked with these individuals, I was constantly struck by their experience and skills, their enthusiasm and caring, and their commitment to problem solving and trying to improve services to students, clients, and families with whom they were working. I always came away energized and with new perspectives.

I was also struck by what amazing resources we are, or can be, for each other! As members shared their ideas, I was always thinking about other members who would love to know about their approaches and discoveries. One of my favorite roles was to “cross-pollinate” some of this wealth of knowledge, experience and determination as I met with members throughout our organization. I chose the metaphor “cross-pollinate” because a) it IS spring, and b) it so aptly describes how I felt.

Each of us is unique – as individuals and as groups working together daily. Each of us has much to offer, much of which we are capable, and much we can both teach and learn. To carry my metaphor a little further, each of us can also become “hybrids” — keeping our uniqueness and adding strengths we gain from each other. We, as individuals, and AER, as our professional organization, must encourage and support each other in our efforts to continue to grow.

For me, the “recollection” I’ve just described happens over and over.

At international and state/provincial conferences, special workshops and meetings, I see this “cross-pollination” take place with a frenzy. Working with future teachers in our student AER chapter, I see our future professionals excited by opportunities to attend conferences, meet teachers in the field, identify guest speakers they want to talk with, and gather as many resources as they can.

I hope everyone one of you also sees countless opportunities through AER to grow in your professional development — and to share your strengths with each other. It is up to each one of us, however, to see to it that these opportunities exist and to take advantage of them. I strongly agree with Rick Welsh that AER is a “work in progress” and I hope it always will be. Each time we welcome each other into discussions, listen to each other, share with each other our concerns and solutions, encourage each other, or advocate and work together, we are helping ourselves and AER to grow in our ability to provide services which enable persons with visual impairments to have the opportunities they deserve. ■

A Very Special Thank You

A very special thank you goes out to the following members for their generous contributions to AER's MacFarland Stipend Fund, Lowenfeld Publications Fund, and General Operating Fund:

★ Samuel DePiero (PA)

★ Amy Edgerton (NY)

★ Richard Long (MI)

★ Geraldine Scholl (MI)

Thank you all for helping us to support those who provide services to people with visual impairments. ■



AER Corporate Member, **American Foundation for the Blind**, has named **Keller Johnson** as AFB ambassador. Johnson follows in the footsteps of her great-great-aunt Helen Keller, who served for 44 years as AFB's ambassador and counselor on national and international relations. In addition, AFB has appointed **Ike Presley** as National Program Associate, Literacy, at AFB's Southeast office in Atlanta, GA. ■

The Nebraska AER Chapter has awarded the Samuel F. Bacon Award to **Dr. Dwaine Alcorn**, as he retires from the University of Nebraska at Lincoln. For the last 20 years, Dr. Alcorn was in charge of the Summer Endorsement Program in Vision. ■

AFB announces that AER member **Dr. Susan Jay Spungin**, vice president, National Programs for AFB, will be transitioning out of her current position and moving into a new position as vice president, Education and International Programs. ■

AER Corporate Member **American Printing House for the Blind** has appointed **Paul Zurkuhlen**, of Louisville, KY, to the position of director of Planned Giving. ■

The Council for Exceptional Children – Division on Visual Impairments has awarded the 1999 Virginia Sowell Student of the Year Award to **Amy Edmonds**, an AER member from Texas. In addition, **Bob Brasher**, from the American Printing House for the Blind, was the recipient of the 1999 Distinguished Service Award. ■

What Year Was It? The AER Timeline Quiz!

Test your knowledge of AER's 15-year history. See if you can correctly guess what year this handsome AER member couple graced the pages of *AER Report*, modeling the "still-in-fashion-today" (and available) AER totebag... (Answers below.)



Everyone Who's Anyone Carries An AER Tote Bag!

AER members Frank and Diane Ryan won't leave home without it.



The year was 1991

National Vision Rehabilitation Cooperative Launches Reimbursement Initiative

By David Ekin, Executive Director, St. Louis Society of the Blind and Visually Impaired and Member, Reimbursement Initiative Committee National Vision Rehabilitation Cooperative

Editor's Note: Both corporate and individual members of AER, including former AER Treasurer David Ekin, are members of the National Vision Rehabilitation Cooperative. In addition, AER Executive Director, Denise Rozell, recently met with members of the Cooperative to determine how AER can be of assistance in this effort.

The National Vision Rehabilitation Cooperative is a group of 17 (and growing) private, nonprofit vision rehabilitation agencies that are united around the mission of strengthening vision rehabilitation services for individuals with vision impairment, including those who are blind and those with partial sight.

As the number of individuals with vision impairment continues to rise and significant further increases are expected as our society ages, it will become increasingly important for vision rehabilitation professionals and service provider agencies to have access to reimbursement for our specialized services.

It was with this reality in mind that, at its most recent annual meeting,

the Cooperative voted unanimously to undertake a major initiative to obtain health insurance reimbursement. The following statement was adopted:

"Vision loss is a major and growing public health issue, and vision rehabilitation services should be covered by Medicare, Medicaid, and private health insurance."

Middle-aged and older adults overwhelmingly believe that health insurance should provide coverage

"Vision loss is a major and growing public health issue, and vision rehabilitation services should be covered by Medicare, Medicaid, and private health insurance."

... adopted by the Cooperative

for vision rehabilitation on a par with rehabilitation for other common health conditions, such as a stroke or a hip fracture. In order for people who have vision impairment to have equitable access to rehabilitative services, Medicare,

Medicaid, and private health insurance must be expanded to include vision rehabilitation in their benefit packages, and specialized providers of these services must be made eligible to receive reimbursement. Since Medicaid and commercial health insurance tend to follow Medicare policy, the Medicare law is the priority target for change.

The vision rehabilitation field, in turn, must itself evolve to meet the expectations of health systems payers, in terms of the education and credentialing of service provider personnel, and of agency service delivery and information systems. The Cooperative has sent a letter to AER President Peggy Madera, commending AER's recent moves to strengthen professional credential as an important first step. (See related article on page 1.)

Clearly, much is to be gained from such expanded coverage: improvement in function and quality of life for individuals who experience vision loss and would now have greater access to rehabilitation services, reduced dependence on family caregivers and community services, more effective use of

and higher consumer satisfaction with health care services, reduced health care costs for the treatment of excess disability, protection of consumers against inadequately-trained providers, and visually impaired person's increased ability to participate as productive members of society.

The Cooperative is putting its own resources behind this initiative, engaging a governmental relations

firm in Washington, D.C., to promote our reimbursement agenda with Congress and the Administration. We welcome, and will need, the support of individual vision rehabilitation professionals and other national and local organizations as we move forward with our initiative, which has the potential to benefit the entire vision rehabilitation field and literally millions of consumers.

If you would like more information about the health insurance reimbursement initiative or a listing of Cooperative member agencies, please contact Lorraine Lidoff, Director, National Vision Rehabilitation Cooperative, 15 Mechanic Street, #3, Provincetown, MA 02657, or phone (508) 487-5815 or e-mail llidoff@lighthouse.org. ■



Calendar of Events

July 3-9, 1999 – American Council of the Blind National Convention, Airport Westin Hotel, Los Angeles CA. Contact: John Herst (800) 424-8666. ■

July 12-16, 1999 – Vision '99: International Conference on Low Vision, The Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, New York City, NY, hosted by Lighthouse International. Contact: (212) 821-9482. ■

July 23-26, 1999 – Guiding Eyes for the Blind O&M and Rehabilitation professionals seminar. Contact David See (914) 243-2254 or GEBDave@aol.com. ■

August 1-3, 1999 – Alabama Conference on Aging and Vision, The Wynfrey Hotel, Birmingham, AL. Contact: (205) 290-4451. ■

August 5-8, 1999 – Foundation Fighting Blindness Annual Conference, Century Plaza Hotel & Towers, Los Angeles, CA. Contact: (410) 784-1414. ■

October 18-21, 1999 – Guiding Eyes for the Blind O&M and Rehabilitation professionals seminar. Contact David See (914) 243-2254 or GEBDave@aol.com. ■

October 27-29, 1999 – NE/AER Conference - Four Points Hotel Sheraton Dorval, Montreal, Quebec. ■

October 28-29, 1999 – Wisconsin AER Conference, Regency Suites, Green Bay, Wisconsin. Contact: Jennifer McKeown (414) 615-0123 ■

October 31-November 1, 1999 – NYAER Chapter Conference, The Sagamore, Lake George, NY ■

November 3-5, 1999 – Tri-State (IN, KY, OH) AER conference,

Best Western Hotel & Conference Center, Cincinnati, OH. Contact: Marianne Mundy (513) 761-9059 or e-mail: gmundy9207@aol.com ■

November 5-7, 1999 – California Association of Orientation and Mobility Specialists State Wide Conference "2000 and Beyond," Casa Munras Garden Hotel, Monterey, CA. Call for papers due June 15, 1999 to Pete Dal Poggetto, 975 Lakeshore Ct., San Jose, CA 95126; phone/fax (408) 947-8874. ■

Correction: July 15-19, 2000 – AER's International Conference, Denver, Colorado, "AERodynamics: Soaring to New Heights." Call for Papers are due July 1, 1999. Contact: Denise Rozell (703) 823-9690. ■

July 17-21, 2002 – AER's International Conference, The Westin Harbour Castle, Toronto, Canada. Contact: Denise Rozell (703) 823-9690. ■

(New Member Category from Page 1)

membership dues rate. These members would continue to be full voting members of AER, but the household would receive only one copy of AER publications such as *AER Report*, *Re:view*, and *JVIB*. Both members would continue to receive all other AER member benefits and discounts, and each would receive copies of all election, conference and division materials. This category of membership would be available only to regular or international AER members; not to student, transition, life, support/clerical or associate members.

After reviewing the proposal, staff reported that this option could be implemented with minimal additional costs and staff time. I am happy to report that the AER Board of Directors passed a motion approving the development of this new membership category. The "same household" membership will be available in January of 2000. (Please note that this is an option for members in the same household. It is not mandatory.)

The AER staff also explored the feasibility of introducing a payment plan in which members could choose to pay their yearly dues in two installments. The staff researched the impact it would have on our finances and on staff time. Staff also surveyed other professional associations who had initiated installment plans.

After hearing about and thinking through the effect this decision would have on the entire association, the Board decided not to establish an installment plan. Although I personally had been in favor of the idea, and I sincerely wanted to offer this as an option to our members, it became very clear that having such a plan would have a very negative impact.

I want the members to know that this was not an easy decision, and it was only made after serious debate and consideration. To have an installment plan truly could have a negative financial impact on the association. Such a plan would have needed significant extra staff time, necessitated changes in our software and data base, effected our

budgeting process which is based on the yearly cycle of dues, and significantly increased our charges with the bank that processes the dues. Although we considered an additional charge for those taking advantage of the installment plan, it became evident that if we attempted to recover the extra costs, the additional charge would have been prohibitive for our members. Keep in mind that members do have the option of using a credit card when paying dues, which already allows each individual to choose a plan for repaying that amount in installments to the credit card company.

I regret that we are unable to offer an installment plan to our members. However, based on the information that was gathered, and the discussion of the Board, I know that this is the right decision for AER. My thanks to the AER staff for their thorough exploration of both proposed plans, and for bringing to the Board such a comprehensive report that enabled us to make these important decisions. ■



For information, contact
AER at 703/823-9690 or
aer@aerbvi.org



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John Lowery

Penn/Del

Janeen Hurley
Paul Koons

Texas

Gaylan Chadwick
Irene Conlan
Pam Dalton
Elizabeth Eagan
Lanelle Garrison
Julia Mason■



Outside AER ...

American Foundation for the Blind's Textbook and Instructional Materials Solutions Forum by Marie Amerson, AER's AFB Solutions Forum Representative

AER has been involved in the American Foundation for the Blind's Textbook and Instructional Materials Solutions Forum since its initial meeting in October 1998. The Solutions Forum is an outgrowth of the National Agenda for the Education of Children and Youths with Visual Impairments, Including Those with Multiple Disabilities, particularly Goal 7, which addresses the concern that students with visual impairments may not currently be receiving instructional materials in the appropriate format at the same time as their sighted peers.

Textbook publishers, producers of specialized media, assistive technology experts, educators, Instructional

Materials Resource Centers, parents, and others participated in the Solutions Forum to examine the multi-faceted process of producing and delivering educational materials in accessible media. As a result of the initial Forum meeting, issues were categorized in six priority areas: Electronic Files, Production, Legislative Issues, Communication and Collaboration, Training and Other Needs, and Research and Development. Work groups were established for each category and action plans are being developed. Many work groups have drafted surveys to determine the current status of relevant problems and other actions are planned for the coming months.

Solutions Forum participants have expressed commitment to a coordinated plan of action for assuring equal access to instructional materials for all students with impaired vision. AER joins AFB in recognizing this as one of the most critical issues affecting the education of students who are blind or visually impaired, and has made a commitment to continue participating in the Textbook and Instructional Materials Solutions Forum.

More information about the Textbook and Instructional Materials Solutions Forum can be found at the following website: www.tsbvi.edu/textbooks/afb/initial.htm ■

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Across the Spectrum



An information exchange focusing on literature which references blindness or low vision

The following references were submitted by: Gregory Goodrich

Journal Reference: *Archives of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation*, Aug. 98, Vol. 79, pp. 994-997

Article: "Body Support Effect on Standing Balance in the Visually Impaired Elderly"

Author: Akira Maeda, Kazutoshi Nakamura, Akihiko Otomo, Shigekazu Higuchi, Yutaka Motohashi

Reprint requests to: Akira Maeda, Department of Public Health, Akita University School of Medicine, 1-1-1 Hondo, Akita City 010-8543, Japan ■

Journal Reference: *Patient Education and Counseling* Vol. 34, 1998, pp. 63-73

Article: "Development of a Health Education Programme for Elderly with Age-Related Macular Degeneration: A Focus Group Study"

Author: S. Dahlin-Ivanoff, K. Klepp, J. Sjöstrand

Reprint requests to: S. Dahlin-Ivanoff, Department of Ophthalmology, Institute of Clinical Neuroscience, University of Göteborg, Göteborg Sweden ■

Journal Reference: *Ophthalmic Epidemiology*, 1998, Vol. 5., No. 3, pp. 143-169

Article: "The Global Impact of Eye Injuries"

Author: A.D. Négrel, B. Thylefors

Reprint requests to: A.D. Négrel, Programme for the Prevention of

Blindness & Deafness, World Health Organization, 1211 Geneva 27, Switzerland ■

Journal Reference: *Ophthalmic Epidemiology*, 1996, Vol. 3, No. 2, pp. 109-116

Article: "Visual Acuity Disturbance in Subjects over 50 years of Age in a Population-Based Cataract Survey"

Author: N. Katoh, K. Sasaki, K. Fujisawa, Y. Sakamoto, M. Kojima, T. Hatano

Reprint requests to: N. Katoh, Department of Hygiene & Public Health, Tokyo Women's Medical College, 8 Kawada-cho, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo 162, Japan ■

Journal Reference: *J Cataract Refract Surg*, Vol. 24, Dec. 98, pp. 1626-1631

Article: "Comparison of Methods to Assess Visual Impairment from Glare and Light Scattering with Posterior Capsule Opacification"

Author: James Tan, David Spalton, Geoffrey Arden

Reprint requests to: David Spalton, Department of Ophthalmology, St. Thomas' Hospital, Lambeth Palace Road, London SE1 7EH, UK ■

Journal Reference: *Journal of Pediatric Ophthalmology & Strabismus*, Vol. 34, No. 6, 1997, pp. 347-356

Article: "Constriction of the Visual Field of Children After Early Visual Deprivation"

Author: Elizabeth Bowering, Daphne Maurer, Terri Lewis, Henry Brent

Reprint requests to: Elizabeth Bowering, Department of Psychology, Mount St. Vincent University, 166 Bedford Highway, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada B3M 2J6 ■

Journal Reference: *Clinical Rehabilitation* 1998, No. 12, pp. 265-271

Article: "Experience of an Open Referral System for Stroke Rehabilitation in the Community"

Author: Ravi Maheswaran, Sue

Davis

Reprint requests to: R. Maheswaran, Department of Epidemiology and Public Health, Imperial College School of Medicine, St. Mary's Hospital, Norfolk Place, London W2 1PG, UK ■

Journal Reference: *Diabetic Medicine*, 1998, No. 15, pp. S47-S50

Article: "Lowering the Risk of Visual Impairment and Blindness"

Author: José Cunha-Vaz

Reprint requests to: J. Cunha-Vaz, Department of Ophthalmology, University Hospital and Institute of Biomedical Research on Light and Image, Coimbra, Portugal ■

Reference: "Towards Excellence: Effective Education for Students with Vision Impairments," 400 pages, 1998

Author: Pat Kelley, Gillian Gale

Print requests to: North Rocks Press, Royal Institute for Deaf and Blind Children, 361-365 North Rocks Road, North Rocks, 2151, Australia ■

Journal Reference: *Optometry and Vision Science*, Vol. 76, No. 3, March 99, pp. 141-158

Article: "Seeing into Old Age: Vision Function Beyond Acuity"

Author: Gunilla Haegerstrom-Portnoy, Marilyn Schneck, John Brabyn

Reprint requests to: Gunilla Haegerstrom-Portnoy, The Smith-Kettlewell Eye Research Institute, 2318 Fillmore Street, San Francisco, CA 94115 ■

Journal Reference: *Rehabilitation Psychology*, 1999, Vol. 44, No. 1, pp. 85-103

Article: "Attachment and Interpersonal Characteristics of College Students with and Without Disabilities"

Author: Ruth Huebner, Kenneth Thomas, Norman Berven

Reprint requests to: Ruth Huebner, Department of Occupational Therapy, 103 Dizney, Eastern Kentucky University, Richmond, KY 40475. ■



AERwaves

*by Denise M. Rozell,
Executive Director*

As I understand the story, AER-Lift was the brainchild of Mike Bina during his term as President of AER. Mike wanted to be able to have some concentrated time for the leadership of the organization — particularly the Chapters — to be able to come together, share experiences, problems and solutions, learn from each other and, hopefully, have a good time doing it. What started out as a one-time experiment hosted by Mike in Indianapolis, has turned into one of the most successful meetings that AER hosts each year.

Having just returned from this year's AER-Lift in Austin, Texas, I can truly say that the energy and commitment that each of your Chapter, Division, and Board officers brought to the gathering was amazing. What is

even more amazing to me is the energy that they are bringing back home to you.

At this year's AER-Lift, we saw the kick-off of some new projects for AER — The AER Advantage membership campaign and the Academy for Certification of Rehabilitation and Education Professionals.

We also saw the continuation of some existing work and problem solving by the Council of Division Chairs and the Council of Chapter Presidents — a training event on AER policy and procedures including how to run a meeting for new division officers, and roundtable discussions on recruiting and retaining members, conducting effective board meetings, producing great newsletters, and "conference planning 101."

We looked at the pressing issues being addressed by the field in which AER Chapters and Divisions are playing a significant role — the fight

to preserve the Commissions for the Blind in North Carolina and Texas, the attempt to expand vision rehab for the aging population, and particularly to try to get more money for the Title VII, Chapter 2 Older Blind program, and the implementation of the new IDEA regulations at the state level through the regulatory process.

And, then we spent an entire morning planning for the future of AER through brainstorming and strategic planning to see where you want to see this organization go in the next five years. Through it all, we shared and learned, worked and laughed.

A special thanks to President-elect Billy Brookshire, Chair of the Council of Division Chairs Barb Hunt, and Chair of the Council of Chapter Presidents Scott Meehan who planned this, their first, very successful AER-Lift. In this organization, what starts out as one person's dream can very often turn into a successful reality! ■



AER Report

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AER Report

Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired

AER Member Joanne M. Wilson Sworn In as Commissioner, Rehabilitation Services Administration

In a ceremony on August 28 at the Department of Education in Washington, a throng of leaders in education and government came together for the swearing in ceremonies for Robert H. Pasternack, Assistant Secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, and Joanne M. Wilson, Commissioner, Rehabilitation Services Administration. In opening the ceremony, Education Secretary Rodney Paige noted that "Joanne Wilson has a record of achievement that matches her boundless determination and dedication, and, as someone who has actually used grants from RSA, she understands how its program can help individuals with disabilities to participate more fully in work and in their communities."

Among those attending were AER President Billy Brookshire, Acting Executive Director Jackie Fairbarns, NFB Executive Director Marc Maurer and AFB Vice President for Governmental Relations (and member of AER's Legislative Committee) Paul W. Schroeder.

Since 1985, Wilson has been director of the Louisiana Center for the Blind, which she founded

Continued on page 12



Following the ceremony, Brookshire shared congratulatory thoughts with the new Commissioner.



Among the crowd of well-wishers, Brookshire spent a few serious moments with new Assistant Secretary Robert Pasternak (right).

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From the President

The Hitch Rock Break out your shovels, AER-cheologists!

Ploughing the fields of my youth, I oft encountered what my Daddy called the hitch rock. The hitch rock is a large flat flagstone found commonly in many Central Texas fields. You can plough for years over a hitch rock without knowing it's there; but over time and with much turning of the soil, or perhaps just the natural shifting of the earth and its contents, the stone moves closer to the surface. If the tractor driver does not react quickly to step on the clutch, the engine will stall and the driver will waste valuable ploughing time re-starting it.

How do you deal with a hitch rock? Upon encountering a hitch rock, the tractor driver has a couple of options: back up and turn the wheel of the tractor so that the disk slips off the rock; or step down from the tractor, dig the stone from the earth, and move it to the edge of the field where it will not interrupt ploughing again.

I believe the human process of revising attitudes and values works in much the same fashion. Buried in the recesses of our minds are bits of inaccurate, untried information (hitch rocks) collected from friends, family, television, newspapers, and many other sources we

trust. We don't even know it's there until we encounter the awkward situation and vaguely realize something is wrong. We might react with beads of sweat on our foreheads, uncontrolled stammering, general anxiousness, or just plain not knowing what to do. We may not realize it at the time, but we've ploughed directly into an attitudinal hitch rock.

When we encounter the attitudinal hitch rock, we have similar choices to those of the tractor driver. We can ignore the inaccurate information and keep running into it; or we can deal with it.

But dealing with faulty attitudes is somewhat different from dealing with rocks. Attitudes and values are just information; and information, once collected, stays in the brain for a lifetime. We can't actually remove it. To deal with the attitudinal hitch rock, we simply have to collect enough accurate data to outweigh and overrule the inaccurate.

To illustrate how this works, let me share some personal experience.

When I first came to work in this field, I knew almost nothing about blindness and blind people. I held many misconceptions about what it was like to be blind. I even had trouble



Billy Brookshire,
AER President
2000-2002

saying the word b-b-b-b-b-b-blind. In my initial encounters with blind persons, I felt awkward. I didn't know what to say. I stammered and stuttered. I didn't know whether to make eye contact. Some times I would wander off without telling the person I'd gone, only to leave them standing alone talking to no one. I really wanted to help but I didn't know what to do or when, where, and how to do it.

I had run smack dab into a minefield of attitudinal hitch rocks. Because of the inaccurate messages I'd collected over my lifetime, I believed that blind people were a miserable bunch. I guess you could say was informationally challenged, but I didn't realize it until my hitch rocks surfaced and my inaccurate information began to fail me.

Fortunately for me, I made a lot

of blind friends early in my career who helped me deal with my inaccurate informational baggage. They were patient and willing teachers who eagerly shared their lives and stories. They taught me that blind only means unable to see. It doesn't mean anything else. Of the countless characteristics an individual can possess, blindness is only one. Certainly it presents some barriers in this world designed by sighted people for sighted people; but with the right skills, tools, and opportunities, a person who is blind can do pretty much anything they want to do. I slowly began to develop a more realistic

view of what blindness was all about. I also learned that most of my job as a professional was to expect from each person what I expected from myself and that is, to succeed.

I don't know about you; but even after being in this field for almost thirty years, I'm still uncovering hitch rocks. Although I learn more every day, I realize I will never really know what blindness is all about until I lose my own vision. And I've come to understand that if I want to be an effective professional, I've got to listen to the experts and blind individuals who are willing to share their experiences and in-

sights. Every person and every story helps me understand a little more.

So thank you Walter and Franklin and Elaine and Linda W. and Mike and Lynda J. and Jay and Richard and Charlie and Betty and Julia and Gloria and Bryan and Bob and Ron, and many others too numerous to mention, for helping me deal with my attitudinal hitch rocks. I know I'm still a work in progress but thanks to you I've got fewer rocks in my head.

That's it for now. Take care of yourselves.



A Day in the Life of AER President Brookshire Is A Busy One...

On Monday, August 27, at the reception following Joanne Wilson's swearing-in, Brookshire spent a few minutes visiting with fellow Texan and one of his personal heroes, Justin Dart.

"Wow, this is fast!" was Brookshire's reaction

on Tuesday, August 28, when he visited the AER office and received a demonstration of the new DSL internet connection. Sharing his delight are AER staffers (from left) Jackie Fairbarns, George Chandithuruthel and Felecia Sharpe.

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www.aerbvi.org

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AER Report provides for the publication of materials that may represent divergent ideas, judgments, and opinions.

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Julie J. Green
Derrick Smith

British Columbia Canada

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Donna M. Kirkpatrick
Annette M. Lyon

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Ontario Canada

Karen R. McCall

Oregon

Louisa Anagnostopoulou
Lynette M. Kleespies
Walter S. Reyes

Pennsylvania

Kamryn L. Becker
Mari-Cay N. Hartman

Pennsylvania (continued)

Janet M. Miller
Mike Nicol
Dr. Stephen G. Whittaker

Tennessee

Valerie A. Martin

Texas

Andrea S. Carter
Aisha L. Edwards
Lani M. Gant
Stacey L. McKenzie
Mary Faith Price

Utah

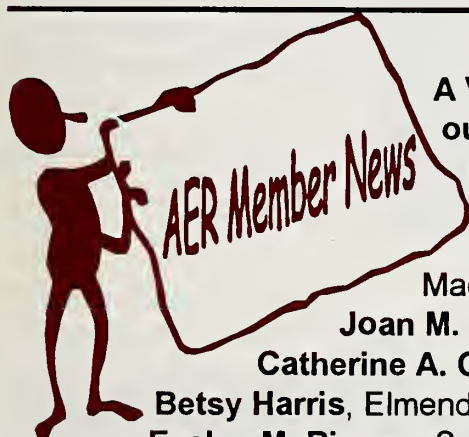
Dawn L. Lippy
Barbara L. Talbot

Wisconsin

Jane L. Albrecht
Mary Jean Hoover



A hearty "welcome aboard" is extended to new AER member Maureen Matheson (right above) by AER President Brookshire and Canadian Coordinator Vince Martino (at left).



A Very Special "Thank You" to the following for their generous contributions to AER's Lowenfeld Publication, MacFarland Stipend and General Operating Funds:

Kelly S. Doyle-Bucci, Pittsburgh, PA (Lowenfeld Publication, MacFarland Stipend, General Funds)

Joan M. Tolla, Tifton, GA (General Fund)

Catherine A. Gray, Albuquerque, NM (MacFarland Stipend Fund)

Betsy Harris, Elmhurst, TX (General Fund)

Evelyn M. Riggan, Salem, OR (MacFarland Stipend Fund)

At the Technology Conference in Pittsburgh, AER President Billy Brookshire joins in congratulating a surprised Jim Allan on receiving the first Harvey Lauer Award, presented by AER Division 5 (Information and Technology). From left, Brookshire, Harvey Lauer, Allan, Jay Stitely, who presented the award.





ACVREP Update

By Eileen Siffermann, COMS, President, Academy for Certification of Vision Rehabilitation and Education Professionals

As of September 2001, ACVREP concluded its third-quarter round of certification and recertification applications. For those of you who have allowed your 2001 certification to expire, we encourage you to apply for recertification within the year. Once your certification has been expired for one year, in order to become certified again, you will have to begin the certification process from step one and sit for the certification examination as part of the application process.

AER has transferred to ACVREP the certification marks for CLVT, COMS and RTC. The certification logo for COMS and RTC were also transferred to ACVREP. The Low Vision Certification Committee has designed and the ACVREP Board has reviewed the CLVT logo. You can see each of these logos on the web

site, www.acvrep.org.

ACVREP now requires that applicants for certification complete their internships with ACVREP certificants. Every effort has been made by AER and ACVREP to notify those holding AAWB permanent certification of the conditions under which the ACVREP certification mark can be used. We have encouraged permanent certificants to transfer to ACVREP for these reasons. By making this transfer, as those holding five-year certificates, you become eligible to use the certification mark following your name and to supervise interns from the approved AER university programs in O&M and RT.

If you have questions regarding professional certification, please visit the ACVREP web site (www.ACVREP.org) or call the ACVREP office at 520-887-6816.



AER Chapter Round Up

Hawaii Chapter President Carol Hotta (right) stopped by the AER booth at the Technology Conference in Pittsburgh to a warm welcome from AER President Billy Brookshire. In the background, Vince Martino (left) of the Canadian office confers with Treasurer Gregory Goodrich.

AER Chapters – this is your space! Send items to AER Report, PO Box 22397, Alexandria, VA 22304. Deadlines are the first of January, March, May, July, September and November.



2002 AER International Conference in Toronto

An advance look: Plans, Programs and Possibilities By: 2002 Conference Chair Peggy Madera

Plans for the 2002 AER conference in Toronto are shaping up nicely, starting with the educational program. The "Call for Papers" closed on July 15, 2001. The response this year was overwhelming. We received approximately 300 submissions! There are, however, only 100 spots to fill. Therefore we will not be able to accept about two thirds of the submissions. The Divisions read through the submissions, rate them, and make recommendations as to which sessions should be selected. We are hoping that some of these topics can be presented in poster Session format. Others may need to wait until 2004. Such a great response to the "Call for Papers" means that there will be many wonderful sessions to attend.

Thanks to all of you who participated in developing the Conference theme. "AERloom: Weaving together a tapestry of services" was chosen. The theme/title suggests both the role of the professional practitioner who must weave together a fabric of services for clients and the AER which brings together diverse services for its members. It also describes quite well the nature of our continuing education offerings, which weave presentations from every facet of our diversified professions into the fabric of one outstanding Conference.

I have heard several "interesting" questions from US members, regarding the conference in Toronto. As a result, I wish to challenge all of our US members (including myself!) to sharpen our geographic, histori-

cal and social knowledge of Canada before next July. With the help of the AER Canadian representative, Linda Mamer, and the manager of the AER Canadian office, Vince Martino, I will be preparing a quiz about Canada to distribute to the non-Canadians at the conference. Now... the challenge to the Canadian members. This is your chance to share your history and geography with others. Feel free to suggest questions for the quiz by e-mailing me at Madera@aol.com.



In order to help you begin studying for the quiz, here are a few facts about Toronto. I hope that the information on Toronto will also pique your interest in attending the 2002 AER conference to be held at the Westin Harbour Castle Hotel in Toronto.

"Toronto" is the Huron word

for meeting place.

Eleven million of Canada's 30 million people live in Ontario (4.2 million in Toronto).

Americans occupied Toronto twice during the War of 1812.

Toronto is located on the northern shore of Lake Ontario and is in the same latitude as Northern California.

Toronto is the third largest film and television production center in North America (after New York and Los Angeles).

The CN Tower is the tallest free-standing structure in the world (1,815'5").

Toronto's main strip (Yonge Street) is the world's longest (1,190 miles).

Toronto is the third largest live theatre center in the English-speaking world (after London and New York) averaging 50 different productions each month.

More on Toronto later. Hope to see you there.

Across the Spectrum

Contributed by Gregory Goodrich.



An information exchange focusing on literature which references blindness or low vision

Journal Reference: *Optometry and Vision Science*, Vol. 78, No. 5, May 2001, pp. 264-269

Article: "The Smith-Kettlewell Institute (SKI) Longitudinal Study of Vision Function and Its Impact among the Elderly: An Overview"

Author(s): John Brabyn, PhD, Marilyn Schneck, PhD, Gunilla Haegerstrom-Portnoy, OD, Lori Lott, PhD

Journal Reference: *Optometry and Vision Science*, Vol. 78, No. 5, May 2001, pp. 350-359

Article: "Timed Instrumental Activities of Daily Living Tasks: Relationship to Visual Function in Older Adults"

Author(s): Cynthia Owsley, PhD, Gerald McGwin, Jr., PhD, Michael E. Sloane, PhD, Beth T. Stalvey, PhD, Jennifer Wells, CDRS

Journal Reference: *Optometry and Vision Science*, Vol. 78, No. 5, May 2001, pp. 343-349

Article: "Comparison of Driving Performance of Young and Old Drivers (with and without Visual Impairment) Measured during In-Traffic Conditions"

Author(s): Joanne M. Wood, PhD, Kerry Mallon, GradDipOcCH+S

Journal Reference: *Optometry and Vision Science*, Vol. 78, No. 5, May 2001, pp. 335-342

Article: "Quality of Life of Low-Vision Patients and Outcomes of Low-Vision Rehabilitation"

Author: Joan Stelmack, OD

Journal Reference: *Optometry and Vision Science*, Vol. 78, No. 5, May 2001, pp. 325-334

Article: "Eye Movements and Reading with Large Print and Optical Magnifiers in Macular Disease"

Author(s): Alex R. Bowers, PhD, Russell L. Woods, PhD

Journal Reference: *Optometry and Vision Science*, Vol. 78, No. 5, May 2001, pp. 304-315

Article: "Vision Multiplexing: an Engineering Approach to Vision Rehabilitation Device Development"

Author: Eli Peli, OD

Journal Reference: *Optometry and Vision Science*, Vol. 78, No. 5, May 2001, pp. 297-303

Article: "The Development of the Ocutech VES-Autofocus Telescope and a Future Binocular Version"

Author(s): Henry A. Green, OD, Jaroslav Pekar, PhD, Robert Beadles, Lawrence L. Gotlob, PhD

Continued on page 14



AER Continuing Professional Education

Diabetes Mellitus and Visual Impairment in the Workplace

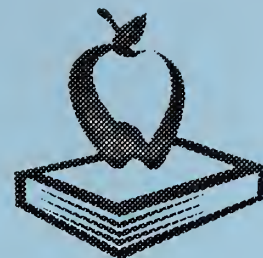
By Margaret Cleary, M.S., R.N.

About the Author

Margaret Cleary is Director of Admissions and Diabetes Teaching Nurse at the Carroll Center for the Blind, Newton, MA. She is an R.N. and has a Master's in Rehabilitation Nursing and Nursing Education from Boston College. Her professional qualifications include certification as a Health Educator, Supervisor of Health Educators, Diabetes Educator and Rehabilitation Teacher. She is an AER member and is liaison to the American Association of Diabetes Educators.

She has served in numerous elective offices within AER Divisions and Chapters and in many other professional organizations. A nationally known speaker, she is a member of the speakers bureaus of the American Association of Diabetes Educators and American Diabetes Association, and has authored and co-authored dozens of articles.

AER Continuing Professional Education



The following home study course has been approved by AER for one contact hour of continuing education credit. This credit may be used towards recertification purposes with the Academy for Certification of Vision Rehabilitation and Education Professionals (ACVREP).

The course has also been approved by the Commission on Rehabilitation Counselor Certification (CRCC) for one clock hour of continuing education credit for certification maintenance purposes.



AER Continuing Professional Education

Diabetes Mellitus and Visual Impairment in the Workplace by Margaret Cleary, M.S., R.N.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

Upon completing this self-study course, readers will:

- understand differences between Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes
- recognize undesirable symptoms of diabetes
- know employer responsibilities in response to individuals with diabetes in the workplace
- be able to develop a plan to accommodate individuals with diabetes in the workplace
- perceive visual impairments resulting from diabetes

INTRODUCTION:

Professionals in the field of blindness know a significant difference exists between diabetes and visual impairment. Statistics show a gradual reduction in the percentage of consumers with diabetes and visual impairment who lose vision com-

pletely. But not all affected individuals have a total loss of vision and therefore we see larger numbers of affected individuals than the past who remain eligible and desirous of employment. Attention to the nature of Diabetes Mellitus, needs and rights of individuals with diabetes, and suggestions to the employer promise successful placement and retention of employees.

Diabetes mellitus is a very complex disorder. It involves a group of diseases characterized by high levels of blood glucose resulting from defects in insulin secretion, insulin action, or both.

It presents a chronic disease, meaning ongoing for life, and systemic, implying that it affects all the body.

Two factors distinguish it from other disease (inserts): (1). It affects metabolism, the way the body handles carbohydrate foods

and (2). If it is uncontrolled over a period of time, it alters the structure and function of blood vessels.

Millions of people have diabetes. Scientists document as many as 30 different types of diabetes mellitus. The common element in all forms of diabetes mellitus is elevated blood sugar. Individuals with diabetes in the workplace most often report type 1 or type 2 diabetes.

1. Type 1 (insulin dependent diabetes mellitus) occurs in about 10 percent of the people who have diabetes. In Type 1 the pancreas doesn't produce insulin needed to metabolize the carbohydrate foods eaten and the body depends on an outside source.

Type 2 (non-insulin dependent diabetes mellitus) appears in about 85-90 percent of people with diabetes. The insulin-producing

organ of the body, the pancreas, often appears to be functioning, but the body has difficulty using the existing insulin to control blood glucose levels. Type 2 can be treated with a meal plan, insulin production medication aids and/or insulin.

Both type 1 and type 2 require adherence to strict management guidelines. Both are subject to many forms of complications of both the small and large blood vessels

(retinopathy, nephropathy, neuropathy as well as cerebral-vascular injuries and cardiovascular disease). Guidelines include treatment with insulin and/or oral medication, consistent meal plan, sufficient exercise and routine blood glucose management. Medical effects of insulin and/or oral medication and diabetes-related complications dramatically impact the workplace. A management plan avoids further complication of both high and low blood sugar levels.

Because diabetes compromises blood circulation, there are many ways in which the eyes can be affected (Figure 1). Anything that alters the passage of light rays to the back of the eye interferes with sight. Common eye conditions such as cataracts, glaucoma and detached retina ordinarily are not associated with diabetes, but they do, indeed, become dreaded complications of it. Fluid accumulation in the lens during hyperglycemia may cause inconsistent, frustrating vision changes. Low blood sugars may decrease

vision. Cataracts cause cloudiness. Vitreous pressure may increase causing glaucoma and optic nerve damage. A gradual loss of peripheral vision (or side) vision may occur. Retinal detachments result in areas of stress, reducing visual input.

Retinopathy may cause an abnormal accumulation of fluid in the retina resulting in edema and blurred central vision. Paresis of the muscles controlling the eyeball or eyelid

due to visceral nerve damage may appear. The local retinal blood vessels may grow abnormally or rupture causing retinitis or forms of diabetic retinopathy, leaving patches of visual disruption. Diabetic retinopathy proliferans is a devastating blood vessel disease of the retina and vitreous that may lead to severe vision loss and other eye dis-

Figure 1 SYMPTOMS

- Early signs of vision loss may be bumping into things, appearing disoriented in a physical setting, not looking directly at people when speaking, reading only large print, having to hold materials very close, or seeing out of only certain parts of the eye.
- Symptoms about which a person may complain are persistent blurring vision, floaters or dots in the eyes, flashes of light and sensitivity to sunlight.
- Retinopathy usually can be identified by a central field loss, defective night vision, and preference of average or bright light. Other complications may be involved if a person complains about peripheral field loss, preference for dim lights, or defective color vision.

eases. Extensive vascularization and hemorrhage may occlude the vitreous allowing no light to pass through.

Thus the individual may experience varying degrees of visual loss depending upon the cause, extent and treatment of the eye condition. That being said, attention needs to be given to basic diabetes self-management regardless of the extent of the visual impairment.

The functional limitations of individuals with diabetes result from four basic causes: (1) the short term effects of high blood sugar levels or "hyperglycemia,"

(2) the immediate consequences of low blood sugar levels or "hypoglycemia,"

(3) the long term complications caused by hyperglycemia; and

(4) the myriad difficulties caused by trying to keep blood sugar levels balanced at a healthy level.

Thus a fine line must be drawn between high and low blood glucose in order to prevent long-term consequences of either high or low readings.

Recognizing the variations forestalls dramatic results (Figure 2).

The employee has a responsibility to state that diabetes exists and the employer needs to provide an environment that will provide reasonable accommodation. Regulations include danger prevention to the employee himself/herself. Discrimination based on diabetes often results from ignorance. Because diabetes is usually not a "visible" disease, many employers do not understand its nature and treatment.

Common issues include:

Not being hired because the employer fears diabetes;

Being fired because of diabetes related disruption to productivity;

Lacking accommodations for diabetes self-management;

Not being able to obtain needed licenses;

Not being able to take necessary sick leave;

Incidents surrounding insulin reactions; and

Insurance coverage.

Problems can sometimes be resolved through education about the disease and

about medical needs. An individual with diabetes needs to dispel myths and stereotypes about diabetes and educate the employer to his/her abilities to be a safe and responsible worker. An employer can reject someone who, as a result of the disability, poses a direct threat to the health or safety of other individuals in the workplace that cannot be eliminated by reasonable accommodation.

Reasonable accommodations made by the employer FOR the individual with diabetes

include:

Breaks to check blood sugar levels, eat a snack, or go to the bathroom;

Private space to perform self-management;

Special permission to eat on the job;

The ability to keep diabetes supplies and food nearby;

The opportunity to work a modified schedule or to work a standard shift as opposed to a swing shift;

An environment conducive to healthful management of the diabetes;

Limit or adjustment of reading time of Braille users with neuropathy

affected by blood glucose levels;

Adjustment of arrival or departure times, allowing a part-time schedule, or altering when certain functions are performed (unless these lead to undue hardship); and

Leave taken in small blocks of time to deal with such things as short-term problems caused by controlling blood sugar levels or for doctor's appointments.

Conversely, the employer has the right to expect that the individual with diabetes regularly adheres to an acceptable treatment plan. The individual needs to portray

Figure 2 DRAMATIC EFFECTS

HYPERGLYCEMIA manifests hunger, thirst, headache, blurry vision, frequent urination, itchy and dry skin, and diabetic ketoacidosis, that can cause breathing difficulties, dangerous electrolyte imbalance, coma, shock, and even death.

HYPOGLYCEMIA symptoms include tremors, palpitation and sweating, confusion, drowsiness, mood changes, unresponsiveness, unconsciousness, convulsions, and even death.

concern, safety and efficiency that result from comprehensive rehabilitation.

Reasonable expectations on the part OF the employer of the individual with diabetes include:

Respect for the educational needs and fears of fellow-employees;
Routine medical management;
Safe and competent orientation and mobility in the workplace;

Practice that ensures healthy feet;
Available food or other glucose substitute carried by the employee at all times to prevent a low blood sugar reaction;
Adaptive communications equipment, personal management

skills, and techniques of daily living skills to perform job requirements;
Independent system for reading and labeling;
Recognition of restrictions and adaptability of skills necessitated by significant temperature changes;
Independent adaptive blood glucose monitoring, ketone-testing, medication organization, and insulin administration;
A system and "sharps" container for storing discarded equipment, including insulin syringes and needles;
Proper temperature-controlled storage containers;
Responsibility for providing and consuming an appropriate, timely meal plan;
Utilization of methods to reduce stress;
A designated person alerted during potentially dangerous times;
Arrangement of a system of treatment should a hypoglycemic reaction (figure 3) occur ; and
Instructions to call emergency personnel should hyperglycemia present itself;

Communication regarding condition changes that affect ability to perform the job.

Thus suggestions that can be given to the employer who hires an individual with diabetes include:

Become familiar with diabetes mellitus, being realistic about its impact on the employee;
Provide reasonable accommodations and expect self-responsibility on the part of the em-

ployee;
Reduce the fears of other employees through education about diabetes;
and
Utilize professional assistance if problems arise.

Mutual cooperation among employer, employee,

and rehabilitation personnel fosters an atmosphere of understanding, acceptance and productivity.

Figure 3 I HAVE DIABETES

I may be having a low blood sugar reaction to insulin or a diabetes pill. If I cannot be awakened or cannot swallow, do not try to give me anything to drink. Call 911.

If I am awake, but acting strangely, give me some regular soft drink, juice, milk, hard candy, or some sugar. If I do not get better within 15 minutes, call 911 or get me to a hospital.

REFERENCES:

DIABETES AND VISUAL IMPAIRMENT: AN EDUCATOR'S RESOURCE GUIDE, M.E.

Cleary, ed., Am. Assoc. of Diabetes Educators, Suite 1240, 444 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago, IL 60611-3901; (312) 664-AADE or (800)TEAMUP4. *ANNUAL RESOURCE GUIDE 2001*, Am. Diabetes Assoc., 1660 Duke St., Alexandria, VA 22314; (703) 549-1500 or (800) 232-3472.

Division for the Blind and Visually Impaired, Rehabilitation Services Administration, 330 C St. SW, Washington, DC 20202; (202)732-1316.

Rehabilitation Services Administration, 330 C St. SW, Washington, DC 20202; (202) 732-1282.

U.S. Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board, 1331 F St. NW, Washington, DC 20004; (800) 872-2253.

U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, P.O. Box 18198, Washington, DC 20036; (800) 669-EEOC.

Diabetes Mellitus and Visual Impairment in the Workplace

Continuing Education Credit Questionnaire

To receive one contact hour of AER continuing professional education credit or one hour of CRCC* continuing education credit, please complete the following questionnaire and return it to AER with a check to cover postage and handling (\$10 for AER members; \$20 for non-members). The questionnaire will be graded and your continuing education credit certificate will be forwarded. Ninety percentage (90%) of the questions must be answered correctly in order to receive the credit.

Please choose the answer that best completes the statement, based on information in *Diabetes Mellitus and Visual Impairment in the Workplace* and check the box to the left of your choice.

1. The number of consumers with diabetes and visual impairment in the workplace

- ☐a. continues to grow at a rapid rate.
- ☐b. decreases as medical management improves.
- ☐c. increases as individuals with diabetes continue working.
- ☐d. decreases as individuals with diabetes become gradually ineligible to work.

2. Diabetes Mellitus appears to be

- ☐a. a simple disease with simple guidelines.
- ☐b. similar to many other systemic diseases.
- ☐c. a combination of effects on metabolism and vessel structure.
- ☐d. diminishing in numbers.

3. Type 1 diabetes

- ☐a. occurs in 10 percent of the people who have diabetes.
- ☐b. can be treated by careful attention to diet.
- ☐c. occurs in 85-90 percentage of people who have diabetes.
- ☐d. requires less strict management than Type 2.

4. Early symptoms of Diabetes Mellitus

- ☐a. relate to blood vessel damage.
- ☐b. appear to be due to high blood glucose levels.
- ☐c. seem harsh and uncontrollable.
- ☐d. can be ignored for a time.

5. An eye condition frequently experienced by people with diabetes is:

- ☐a. macular degeneration.
- ☐b. retinitis pigmentosa.
- ☐c. retinopathy proliferans

☐d. ptosis of the eye lid.

6. Diabetic eye disease causes:

- ☐a. total loss of vision over a long period of time.
- ☐b. visual impairment in varying degrees depending upon the cause and treatment.
- ☐c. uncontrollable pain.
- ☐d. employees to be unable to perform the job.

7. What is a nonvisual sign of hyperglycemia?

- ☐a. feelings of stress.
- ☐b. blood glucose readings over 300.
- ☐c. a sore throat.
- ☐d. unusual drowsiness.

8. An individual with diabetes who suddenly begins to sweat, tremble and speak angrily needs to:

- ☐a. consume some food immediately.
- ☐b. rush to an emergency room.
- ☐c. ask to be left alone until his mood improves.
- ☐d. be disciplined for inappropriate job behavior.

9. Medical assistance is essential for hypoglycemic or hyperglycemic incidents.

- ☐a. yes.
- ☐b. no.
- ☐c. the industrial nurse has to decide.
- ☐d. when in doubt, call 911.

10. Workplace discrimination against individuals with diabetes often stems from

- ☐a. employer/employee ignorance of the disease.
- ☐b. sub par job performance.
- ☐c. health insurance requirements.
- ☐d. government regulations.

11. Reasonable accommodations include

- ☐a. annual hospital leave.
- ☐b. permission to eat on the job.
- ☐c. double indemnity insurance.
- ☐d. a stress-free environment.

12. Reasonable employer expectations of the individual with diabetes involve

- ☐a. sick leave taken whenever controlling blood sugar problems occur.
- ☐b. essential skills, motivation and practice regarding diabetes self-management taking place
- ☐c. providing available instructions regarding treatment for suspected low blood sugars.
- ☐d. biannual physical exams.

13. The individual with diabetes needs to

- ☐a. inform the employer that he/she has diabetes
- ☐b. provide his/her own insurance.
- ☐c. tell the employer about the EEOC.
- ☐d. work a minimum of hours so as not to affect disability payments.

14. Individuals with diabetes can help to resolve problems by

- ☐a. baking cookies for other employees.
- ☐b. emphasizing own ability to be a safe and responsible worker.
- ☐c. arriving on time every day.
- ☐d. bowling on company team.

15. A "sharps" container

- ☐a. contains broken glass and strips of metal.
- ☐b. provides a safe haven for disposable syringes and needles.
- ☐c. should be provided by the employer.
- ☐d. can't be made from a bleach bottle.

16. Individuals with diabetes may lose interest in eating at work because:

- ☐a. it's too complicated to monitor and inject insulin.
- ☐b. there is no place to keep supplies.
- ☐c. they have difficulty obtaining and preparing food.
- ☐d. all of the above.

COURSE EVALUATION

Please complete this form when requesting Continuing Education Credit for *Diabetes Mellitus and Visual Impairment in the Workplace* by Margaret Cleary, M.S., R.N. Your opinion will help AER and its Professional Development Committee in planning future educational features.

Check CEC needed: ☐ ACVREP ☐ CRCC
Were the stated learning objectives met?
☐ Completely ☐ Somewhat ☐ Not at all

Did this course help in your day to day professional performance?

☐ Definitely ☐ Somewhat ☐ Not at all

Was this course a worthwhile investment of your time and money?

☐ Yes ☐ Somewhat ☐ Not at all

Should this course continue to be approved for C.E. credit?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ I'm not sure

I hereby certify that the foregoing test is entirely my own work.

Please print name

Signature

Date _____

AER Member ID Number

Send my CEC to this address:

Number and street

City

State

Zip Code

Forward the completed questionnaire along with your check (\$10 for AER members; \$20 for non-members) to:

Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired
P.O. Box 22397
Alexandria, VA 22304

To apply for Continuing Education Credit, send your completed test questionnaire and check no later than December 15, 2001 to:

Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the
Blind and Visually Impaired
4600 Duke Street, No. 430
P.O. Box 22397
Alexandria, Virginia 22304

Medicare Bill(s) Q&A

Prepared by Lorraine Lidoff, National Vision Rehabilitation Cooperative

What legislation is pending in the 107th Congress to address the lack of coverage for vision rehabilitation services under Medicare?

Two bills have been introduced in the current Congress to provide coverage for vision rehabilitation services under Medicare: HR 2484, the "Medicare Vision Rehabilitation Services Act of 2001," and HR 2674, the "Medicare Equity Act for the Blind of 2001."

What would HR 2484 accomplish?

HR 2484, introduced by Rep. Capuano (D-MA) and a bipartisan group of cosponsors, would create the greatest possible access for older individuals to vision rehabilitation services by:

- *Making Medicare coverage for vision rehabilitation services equitable across all states – establishing national coverage policy where now there is only sporadic and inconsistent local coverage policy.*
- Defining qualifications for uniquely skilled vision rehabilitation professionals – orientation and mobility specialists, rehabilitation teachers, and low vision therapists – adding these practitioners to the Medicare program for the first time.
- Requiring physician involvement to ensure continuity of care.

What would HR 2674 accomplish?

HR 2674, introduced by Rep. Frost (D-TX) and others in the House, would provide Medicare reimbursement only to state vocational rehabilitation agencies, or to providers whom they

approve. The bill does not conform to Medicare definitions of services and eligible beneficiaries, but would adopt definitions from Title VII, Chapter 2 of the Rehabilitation Act. Provider qualifications are not defined. HR 2674 is endorsed by the National Federation of the Blind.

What are the advantages of HR 2484?

- HR 2484 conforms to the existing Medicare model. It does not require changes in how Medicare operates.
- Under HR 2484, a physician, a clinic, rehabilitation agencies, or other facilities can apply to their Medicare carrier to qualify as a billing entity. HR 2484 does not restrict access by adding new limitations to who will be able to bill Medicare for vision rehabilitation services.
- HR 2484 contains an explicit provision that vision rehabilitation services under Medicare will not interfere with the Rehabilitation Act.
- HR 2484 has been endorsed by the American Academy of Ophthalmology, the American Optometric Association, the National Vision Rehabilitation Cooperative, the Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired, the American Foundation for the Blind, the National Council of Private Agencies for the Blind and Visually Impaired, the Blinded Veterans Association, and other major organizations in the aging and vision rehabilitation fields.

Continued on page 14



Division Docket

Message from Tom Miller,
Chair, AER Division III – Multiple Disabilities and Deafblind to Division III members

I am pleased and honored to be the new Chair for AER Division III, Multiple Disabilities and Deafblind. I apologize for the delay in writing this note, but sometimes life seems to spin even faster and the challenges grow even greater.

Every year more children are born with multiple disabilities and deafblindness. Our division members must be advocates at all levels to insure that our students receive higher quality services, from well trained professionals and paraprofessionals. *At times our efforts may seem Quixotic as we confront the windmills of staffing, skill and the implementation of truly quality curriculum for these individuals.*

It's time for us as a Division and as individuals to step back and take a fresh look at who we are, what we do and how can we most effectively provide and advocate for quality services. *What do quality services mean for individuals with multiple disabilities including deafblindness? They are services provided in a competent, caring and forward-seeking manner; services that enable families and diverse service providers to develop and build a common dream for/with the individual. Dream building and planning take time, but it is time well spent since it is the creation of an individual, it is cooperatively building their life, a truly noble task. Quality comes from competence. None of us has all the individual competencies to be dream weavers for children with multiple disabilities and their families. Using our joint knowledge as professionals trained to work with the low inci-*

dence population, we can share our unique competencies, but we need to go beyond simple sharing. We need to set common goals and agenda – benchmarks for ourselves and our clients, our students, to lead happy and productive lives enriched with close, personal relationships.

The heart of all our work with individuals is to develop communication skills and purposeful behaviors. We need to make effective communication and purposeful educational/rehabilitational behaviors the heart of our professional interactions.

So much of the controversy in our professional (personal) lives focuses on the lack of or miscommunication. We need to voice our competence in this area. The better we can define our roles, communicate our intentions, curriculum and goals, the more effectively we will be able to advocate and create a truly meaningful and quality service system for individuals with multiple disabilities/ deafblindness.

Through newsletter, website and e-mail to our leadership and colleagues, let us begin to communicate with one another – question our techniques and strategies, develop our competencies, and as a Division better share and challenge all those we work with to build dreams and futures together.

Division III Officers

Past Chair – Dennis Cates –
dennisc@cameron.edu

Chair – Tom Miller –
millert@perkins.pvt.k12.ma.us

Chair Elect – Marianne Riggio –
riggiom@perkins.pvt.k12.ma.us

Secretary – Treasurer – Carolyn Monaco-
carolyn.monaco@sympatico.ca

AER Divisions – this is your column. Send items to AER Report, P.O. Box 22397, Alexandria, VA 22304. AER Report is published in February, April, June, August, October and December. Editorial Deadline is the first of the month preceding issue date.



Calendar of Events

Oct. 10-12, 2001 - AER Arizona Chapter Conference, Flagstaff, AZ. Contact Penny Rosenblum (520) 621-1223 or rosenblu@u.arizona.edu

Oct. 20, 2001 - The Michigan Chapter of AER 2001 Conference, Lansing, MI. Contact Roberta McCall (517) 771-1765.

Oct. 26-26, 2001 - Nebraska AER Vision Conference, Nebraska Center for the Education of Children who are Blind or Visually Impaired, Nebraska City, NE. Contact Betty Widoe, 402-293-5040.

Oct. 25-26, 2001 - WAER Annual Conference. Contact Linda Bell, e-mail lbell0001+AEA@ameritech.net

Oct. 28-30, 2001 - New York State AER 2001 Conference, Historic U.S. Military Academy's Hotel Thayer, West Point, NY. Contact John J. Kelly, NYSAER Conference Chair, 78 High Street, Apt. 2, Chester, NY 10918 or jkellyi-nom@msn.com.

Nov. 1-3, 2001 - Rehabilitation Teaching Mobilized for the 21st Century, Association of South East Rehabilitation

Teachers (ASERT) and The Mid-America Conference of Rehabilitation Teachers (MACRT), Mobile, AL. Contact Lenore Dillon, CRT, (334)478-2192 or e-mail ddillon@ddyne.com

Nov. 1-3, 2001 - Vision 2001 - Moving Beyond Our Challenges, Alberta Society for the Visually Impaired, Sheraton Cavalier Hotel, Calgary. Contact Barb Bell, 403-556-1237, or e-mail tbell@telusplanet.net

Nov. 8-11, 2001 -5th Biennial Getting in Touch with Literacy Conference, Wyndham Franklin Plaza Hotel, Philadelphia, PA. Conference information, contact Diane P. Wormsley 215-780-1366 or e-mail dwormsley@pco.edu

Nov. 14-16, 2001 - AER Ohio Chapter Conference, "Come join your colleagues for some Fresh AER," Deer Creek State Park. Contact Judy Hornsby (513) 542-0612 or judyorson@aol.com

Nov. 14-16, 2001 - NE-AER Annual Fall Conference, Tapping Into Our Resources, Killington Grand Hotel, Killington, VT Contact Carol Eaton, Host Committee Chair (802) 254-8761 or caroleaton@mindspring.com

Nov. 15-17, 2001 - Braille and Nonvisual Technology (BNAT) Seminar, National Federation of the Blind. Contact Tony Cobb at acobb@nfb.org

2002

Feb. 28-Mar. 3, 2002 - Guide Dogs for the Blind O&M Seminar, San Rafael, CA. Contact Leslie Edmonds, 800-295-4050 X 4058, or e-mail ledmonds@guidedogs.com

April 18-19, 2002 - Nebraska Vision Conference, Educational Service Unit #10, Kearney, NE. Contact Betty Widoe, 402-293-5040

Apr. 25-28 2002 - Guide Dogs for the Blind O&M Seminar, Boring, OR. Contact Leslie Edmonds, 800-295-4050 X 4058, or e-mail ledmonds@guidedogs.com

July 17-21, 2002 - AER 2002 International Conference, Westin Harbour Castle Hotel, Toronto, Ontario, Canada. Contact: AER (877) 492-2708 ■

Please send items for inclusion in the Calendar of Events to Editor, AER Report, PO Box 23397, Alexandria, VA 22304 or e-mail to jackief@aerbvi.org. Deadline for receipt of items is the 1st of the month preceding the month of issue (issues are February, April, June, August, October, December).

Joanne Wilson Sworn In as Commissioner, Rehabilitation Services Administration
(continued from page 1)

as the state's first adult orientation and adjustment training facility and independent living center for the blind. She has also served as a consultant to

the Connecticut Board of Education and Services for the Blind, the New Jersey Orientation and Adjustment Center for the Blind, and the New York Commission for the Blind.

Wilson has a master's degree in guidance and counseling and administration from Iowa State University. She was an

elementary school teacher in Ames, IA, where she taught both blind and sighted children, and a continuing education instructor at Louisiana Tech University.

Nominated by the President on June 21, Wilson was confirmed by the Senate on July 19. ■

Exciting New Benefit for Student Members

Professional Liability Plan for Student Teachers – \$1 Million Coverage Now Available

AER is happy to offer this new benefit to its student members. Coverage will protect against a broad range of exposures associated with student teaching duties, including the following allegations:

- * injuries to students under supervision
- * improper placement of students
- * Improper methods employed in instruction, counseling, research design, etc.
- * defamation
- * failure to educate
- * failure to promote students or grant credit
- * violation of student civil rights
- * negative consequences in implementation of the recommendations of research studies

Any AER student member performing educational duties

under the supervision of a licensed educator is eligible for this new program.

The annual premium for \$1 million in coverage is only \$12 and provides coverage for claims brought at any time, as long as the occurrence that resulted in litigation occurs while the Student Teachers Professional Liability policy was in effect. Thus, a member would be covered even if the coverage has been dropped, as long as the coverage was in force when the incident happened.

For full details of the program, contact Forrest T. Jones & Company, The Trust for Insuring Educators, Kansas City, MO. Telephone: 800/821-7303 ■

Membership Challenge Update -

During the months of June and July, 63 professionals joined the ranks of AER members (see Welcome New Members list on page 4).

The 3% Membership Challenge was issued by the Membership Committee at the May AERLift and several states are well on their way to meeting the Challenge.

Since the campaign began on June 1, more than a hundred individuals have been nominated for AER membership. If you have not yet nominated a friend or colleague, use the form opposite to do a friend a favor. ■



AER's Mission:

To develop and promote professional excellence through support of those who provide services to people with visual impairments.

To: **AER Membership Committee**
4600 Duke Street, #430, PO Box 22397
Alexandria, VA 22304

FAX: 703/823-9695
E-mail: jackief@aerbvi.org

Yes, I want to help AER, my chapter, division – and my profession - to grow. I nominate the following professional(s) in our field for AER membership. Please notify them of the nomination.

Nominee's Name _____
(please print all information)

Professional Title _____

Employed by _____

Mailing Address _____

Telephone _____ FAX _____

E-mail _____

Please _____ do _____ do not mention my name in the notification.

Nominee's Name _____
(please print all information)

Professional Title _____

Employed by _____

Mailing Address _____

Telephone _____ FAX _____

E-mail _____

Please _____ do _____ do not mention my name in the notification.

If you would like to nominate additional colleagues, please attach a separate sheet.

The above nomination for AER membership is made by:

My name: _____

AER Member Number _____

Across the Spectrum *(continued from page 8)*

Journal Reference: *Optometry and Vision Science*, Vol. 78, No. 5, May 2001, pp. 290-296

Article: "Low-Vision Patients with Age-Related Maculopathy Read RSVP Faster when Word Duration Varies According to Word Length"

Author(s): Kathy Aquilante, OD, Dean Yager, PhD, Robert A. Morris, PhD, Faina Khmel'nitsky, BS

Journal Reference: *Optometry and Vision Science*, Vol. 78, No. 5, May 2001, pp. 282-289

Article: "Navigating without Vision: Basic and Applied Research"

Author(s): Jack M. Loomis, PhD, Roberta L. Klatzky, PhD, Reginald G. Golledge, PhD

Journal Reference: *Optometry and Vision Science*, Vol. 78, No. 5, May 2001, pp. 276-281

Article: "Feeling with the Mind's

Eye: the Role of Visual Imagery in Tactile Perception"

Author(s): K. Sathian, MD, Andro Zangaladze, MD

Journal Reference: *Rehabilitation Psychology*, Vol. 46, No. 3, pp. 262-270

Article: "Clinical Decision Making in the Prediction of Falls"

Author(s): Robert A. Ruchinskis, Stephen N. Macciocchi, Gary L. Howe, Roberta A. Newton

Journal Reference: *Visual Impairment Research*, Vol. 2, No. 3, pp. 171-187

Article: "The 1999 low vision literature: a bibliography"

Author: Gregory L. Goodrich

Journal Reference: *Visual Impairment Research*, Vol. 2, No. 3, pp. 163-170

Article: "Development of a memory training for blind seniors on tape"

Author: Sonja Bernard

Journal Reference: *Visual Impairment Research*, Vol. 2, No. 3, pp. 155-162

Article: "Task performance with the Low Vision Enhancement System (LVES)"

Author(s): P. Weckerle, S. Trauzettel-Klosinski, G Kamin, E. Zrenner

Journal Reference: *Visual Impairment Research*, Vol. 2, No. 3, pp. 143-154

Article: "Recognition of jagged (pixelated) letters in the periphery"

Author(s): Li Li, Alex K. Nugent, Eli Peli

Journal Reference: *Visual Impairment Research*, Vol. 2, No. 3, pp. 129-142

Article: "Assessment of clients with visual spatial disorders: a pilot study"

Author(s): D. Verlander, A. Hayes, J.K. McInnes, R.J. Liddle, G.W. Liddle, G.E. Clarke, M.S. Clark, M. Russell, W. Ferguson, P.G. Walsh ■

Medicare Bill(s) Q&A *Continued from page 9*

How will older adults benefit from HR 2484?

- Older people consider vision loss a health care problem, seek help through their physicians, and expect their health insurance to pay for vision rehabilitation services. Medicare pays for medical rehabilitation for most other physical impairments. Thus it is clearly equitable and essential for Medicare to cover vision



rehabilitation as well. Establishing such coverage within the Medicare model – as HR 2484 would do -- means that vision rehabilitation will

become standard within the health care system, as are physical therapy and occupational therapy. Physicians will be able to easily refer their patients for these services on a regular basis, to restore their independence, safety, and quality of life.

For further information:
Lorraine Lidoff, Director
National Vision Rehabilitation Cooperative
(508) 487-5815
E-mail: llidoff@att.net



Canadian Corner

By Vince Martino, COMS, AER Canadian Coordinator

What you should know for your Trek to Canada – Part 2

Continued from the August 2001 AER Report (Adapted from the article "Welcome to Vancouver" by Dr. Cay Holbrook, Winter DVIQ 2000,)

In this issue we continue preparation for visiting Canada, and Toronto in particular, with tips on getting through customs, getting around, and side trips.

Getting Through Customs: US citizens will require proof of US citizenship, either a passport or a birth certificate, together with photo ID. U.K. and Australian citizens require a passport and proof of onward passage out of Canada. Visitors from other countries require a passport and may also require a visa.

If you are arriving at the Toronto Pearson International airport from the United States, you will come through customs and immigration at one of the 3 airport terminals. The process is quite simple but there are some good things to know to help speed up the process.

On your flight you will be given a customs form as you approach Toronto. Fill the form out carefully. At one point, the form asks for information about what you are bringing with you and asks if you are bringing "business material." This does not mean hand-outs for your program session. This question is to find out if you are going to be bringing material to sell while you are in Canada. If you are bringing material to sell, this is where you will indicate that you are bringing something in to sell. If you are not, answer "no."

When going through customs, you may be asked why you are visiting Canada. Your answer here may save you a lot of needless delay. If you say, "I'm here on business" they may assume that you are in Canada to make money (therefore you would require a work visa or permit). But if you say, "I'm here to attend a conference" this will often be sufficient for the customs and immigration people. If you are presenting at the conference, your conference packet contains some information you

can carry with you to help you if there are any questions as you come through Customs.

If arriving by car, you will be crossing at one of the border crossings. You will not be asked to fill out the customs form, but you may be asked some of the same questions that are on the customs form. Example, the reason you are entering Canada and where you plan on travelling to. Indicate to them that you are attending a conference in Toronto. Finally, it should probably go without saying, firearms or illegal drugs are not permitted.

Getting Around: The Toronto Transit Commission (TTC) system includes subway, bus, and streetcar routes. A single adult fare is \$2.00. Tickets and tokens may be bought in packets of 5 or more at a discount. Exact change or a token/ticket is required for boarding buses and streetcars and some subway stations. Transfers between vehicles are available for continuous trips. Obtain a transfer when you pay your fare.

Taxis are abundant in the downtown area. Meters start at \$2.50 and increase at \$.25 increments. A typical trip around downtown Toronto will cost about \$7-\$10.00 (Canadian).

Side Trips: Plan to do some sightseeing while you're here. Consider the following: **Niagara Falls** is about a 1&1/4 hour drive from Toronto. You can spend your time in the Niagara area by visiting the wineries and the Shaw Festival at Niagara-on-the-Lake, or view the spectacular Niagara Falls, ride the Maid of the Mist to the base of the Falls, win some money at Casino Niagara, take the kids to Marine Land (aquarium park), or tour the many museums, shops and specialty stores in downtown Niagara Falls. ■



AERwaves

*By Jackie Fairbarns, Acting
Executive Director*

As all of you know, the AER offices are located just a few miles away from the Pentagon in Northern Virginia. Just a couple of days have gone by since the terrible events in New York, Pennsylvania and here. The airwaves and internet have been filled with images we will never forget, and at such a time it would be all too easy to feel that the world hates us.

But we would be wrong to think that. The outpouring of sympathy from around the globe has strengthened and heartened us all. From people who have stood in these same shoes and from those who can only imagine, have come messages like these by telephone and internet: "We were all shocked at tragic events overtaking the USA and sincerely condole with you on this occasion! Today in our country it was announced a **Minute of Silence** at twelve o' clock (Moscow time) by decision of our President in memory of the monstrous terrorist attack's victims! Wish you **Power and Strength of Spirit!**"

Yuri Y. Lesnevsky

Director of the Novosibirsk Regional Special
Library for the Blind and Visually Impaired
Russia

And

"There are no words to help relive the pain caused by the devastating tragedy that occurred in NYC, Washington and Pittsburgh. My sincere sympathy and condolences to you individually and to the American Nation.

Hopefully this tragic event will bring the democracies of this planet to successfully overcome the evils and darkness they spread."

Nurit Neustadt-Noy, Ph.D.

Consultation and Rehabilitation Services
for Blind and Visually Impaired Persons
Netaim 76870, Israel

And

"I feel really sorry for the tragedy that happened yesterday, and hope that you guys are doing well."

Your friend Sophie Chien-Huey Chang
Assistant Prof.

Dept. of Special Edu

National Taiwan Normal Univ.

I am confident that it will take more than a terrorist's acts to stop or even slow down the important work that you do every day for your students and clients. Nor will there be any interruption in the usual work we do here at the AER office. But while our normal work continues, it will never be "business as usual" because the usual has changed forever. ■



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Alexandria, VA 22304

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AER Report

Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired



Compensation and Benefits – Past and Present

By AER Treasurer Greg Goodrich

By the time this column goes to press you should have received (and returned) the salary survey mailed to you by AER. This is a very important survey, the first of what I believe will be a continuing series to help us better document our profession. In keeping with the theme of salaries I thought our readers might enjoy a look at job announcements as they appeared in the middle of the last century (and for those of you, like me, who need to clarify that phrase, the "middle of the last century" refers to the 1950s. Here are some representative announcements from *The New Outlook for the Blind*:

- Positions Open: Three teachers prepared to teach in elementary school. Bachelor's degree required. Applicants must work well with parents, co-workers and pupils. Persons with ingenuity in teaching blind and visually handicapped, and those with recreation and student club background urged to apply. Salary range \$3600 - \$5976. Oregon State School for the Blind, Salem Oregon.

- Position Open: Director of Services for the Blind, Goodwill Industries of Dayton, Ohio. Duties to include execution and development of program, within framework of a comprehensive rehabilitation agency. Person selected will become a member of a professional rehabilitation team of many disciplines. Applicants should have academic qualifications as well as work experience (preferably administrative). Starting salary range from \$4,000 to \$5,000.

- The Montana Association for the Blind, Helena, Montana, is looking for a qualified, normal or partial sighted person to serve as Supervisor of Orientation at its 1953 Summer School for the Adult Blind, June 28 – August 2. Reasonable salary (\$190 for five weeks), free room and board and reimbursement for minimum round-trip transportation. Good working conditions, ideal climate, beautiful scenery, in the heart of the nation's vacation and tourist country.

- Position Open: Caseworker, graduate accredited school of social work. Unusually interesting opportunity in multiple-service agency serving adult blind persons in

Continued on page 7

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The AER Mission: To develop and promote professional excellence through support of those who provide services to people with visual impairments.



From the President

The Mules and The Rope

Pull together, not apart, AER negotiators!

Once upon a time there were two stubborn mules. Both mules were intelligent hard workers; but neither liked the other. You see, each mule had a different way of doing things; and each mule thought his way best. As a result, the farmer had to use them for different tasks. But one day the farmer hit upon a plan. He placed two stacks of hay at opposite ends of the barnyard, then tied the two mules together with one rope, and positioned them between the two stacks. Immediately, the two mules began pulling against each other in opposite directions, trying to reach a stack of hay that would be theirs alone. They pulled and pulled until they were exhausted and could hardly move. Neither reached his stack of hay.

Sound familiar? We see this scenario played out time and again in our field. Families and school personnel pull against each other. Consumers and rehabilitation staff pull against each other. Teachers pull against parents. Parents pull against children. Rehabbers pull against educators. And all of us pull against legislators. Some times it seems that all we do is pull against each other.

Perhaps the most unfortunate way this scenario plays out is the tug-of-war that often occurs when blindness organizations fail to work together. This seems to be the history AER has with the National Federation of the Blind.

Whatever either organization attempts, regardless of how good the intent, the other automatically opposes. There are many reasons this tug-of-war occurs; but whatever the reasons, professionals and consumers all suffer when we can't find common ground to communicate and collaborate effectively. When we choose to pull against each other, goals are lost and no progress is made.

How do we change the scenario and learn to work more effectively together? I believe the answer lies in negotiation strategy. Fisher and Ury, who wrote *Getting to Yes*, list four suggestions for successful negotiation (which I believe also apply to successful collaboration). I've listed them below with my comments:

1. Focus on interests, not positions. We must learn to view ourselves as partners working on common problems, not as adversaries. Instead of automatically taking sides, we must communicate our needs and interests to each other.

2. Generate options for mutual gain. We must be open to generating a variety of alternatives whenever we work together so that we may create options that address our identified needs and interests.

3. Separate the people from the problem. We must focus our attention and energies toward solving problems, not on personalities or politics; and we must acknowledge that those who have different views or who belong to other



**Billy Brookshire,
AER President
2000-2002**

organizations are not "bad" people, just different.

4. Insist that results be based on objective standards. Finally, we must work to achieve results that are fair for all parties and which satisfy everyone's interests in an acceptable way.

Sounds easy, doesn't it? Unfortunately, because of our historical tendency to pull against each other, some times we act like the mules in the story. AER has excellent working relationships with most blindness organizations. By finding common ground and pooling our efforts, we've made major strides. The Federation has joined in some of those efforts. I only wish we could do more as a unified field. I know there will always be issues on which we disagree; but we don't have to agree on everything to work effectively as partners on some things. As my AER partner Executive Director Mark Richert says: "We can't expect that all organizations will agree all the time; but we should expect that the agreements we

achieve be kept and we must never give up on trying to work together."

There has never been a more crucial time for all blindness organizations to join together. Over the past several years, we've joined major campaigns to preserve the Rehabilitation Act, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act, and to promote the passage of the Capuano Bill (HR 2484 aka "The Medicare Bill"). In the coming months, we will be fighting those same battles again. We cannot afford to sit on the sidelines. Too much is at stake. We must put our differences aside and fight together to preserve our field and maintain the quality of services for blind per-

sons. I encourage you to help by encouraging all the organizations of which you are a member to join us.

Ooops! I almost forgot, here's the rest of the mule story. Remember those mules the farmer tied together? For a long time, the exhausted mules just stood in the middle of the barnyard. Then an amazing thing happened. When one of the mules tried again to reach his haystack, the other followed along and both enjoyed the meal of hay together. Inspired by his partner's actions, the leading mule followed along as the other sauntered over to the remaining haystack and both enjoyed yet another meal.

If mules can learn to collaborate, maybe we can too. By working

together, we can strategize more effectively, mobilize more quickly, and get more accomplished. It sure beats pulling so hard against each other that we are too exhausted to reach any of our goals.

As I write this and puzzle how to get everyone working together, I can't help but think I finally understand the meaning behind the words former Texas Commissioner for the Blind Administrator, Preston Arnold, used to say: "I'm so confused. I don't know whether I've lost a mule or found a rope."

That's all for now. Take care of yourselves. ■

Billy Brookshire



A Very Special "Thank You" to the following for their generous contributions to AER's Lowenfeld Publication, MacFarland Stipend and General Operating Funds:

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Gary Everhart, Canon City, CO, MacFarland Stipend Fund
Carol Halliday, Zurich, Switzerland, General Operating Fund
Dr. Randy Jose, Houston, TX, Lowenfeld Publications Fund

Congratulations to:

Robert B. Brasher, who has been promoted to Vice President of Products and Services at the American Printing House for the Blind in Louisville, KY.

Clovernook Center for the Blind, Cincinnati, OH, upon its re-accreditation by the National Accreditation Council for Agencies Serving the Blind and Visually Handicapped (NAC). ■

AER's 2002 International Conference Committee, headed by Canadians Linda Mamer and Vince Martino, and the Host Committee are putting the final touches on plans for a Conference you don't want to miss! An exchange rate favorable to U.S. members also contributes to the attractions.

The Preliminary AERLoom 2002: Weaving a Tapestry of Services Program, including the daily schedule of sessions, meetings and special events has been mailed to all AER members. The 2002 AER International Conference is being held July 17-21 at the Westin Harbor Castle Hotel in Toronto, Canada. The Preliminary Program also contains travel information, Conference and special events registration and hotel reservation forms. If you have not received it, contact the AER office.

The Preliminary Program is also posted on the AER website (www.aerbvi.org) in both a zip file (graphic) and a text file. ■

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AER Report provides for the publication of materials that may represent divergent ideas, judgments, and opinions.

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Rehabilitation Task Force Progress Report *by Gary Everhart*

We hope all AER members are aware that President Billy Brookshire has appointed a task force to address membership concerns about the apparent loss of Rehabilitation professionals among us. This "Rehab & AER" task force is composed of Margaret Cleary, Barbara Hunt, Neva Fairchild, Gil Johnson, Lynda Jones, Dan Brim, Terry Caporossi and Gary Everhart. The committee has been working diligently to understand the realities of this "perceived" loss of members, to understand the issues involved and to make recommendations to address these issues. We have solicited input from a number of professionals in our field and continue to request thoughts and ideas from all concerned. (Send your ideas to the national AER office, which will forward them to the committee.)

Let us give you some sense of where we are at this point. The AER office provided statistics concerning "Rehab" membership from AER's inception to the present. These statistics are based on membership in those divisions which are *Rehabilitation* focused (Divisions 2, 6, 7, 10, which has since joined with 2, 11 and 15). Since AER does not request occupational designations from members *per se*, this is the best approach to study the data. Data suggests that Rehab-focused membership in AER is diminishing at an alarming rate. The overall level of membership in AER is relatively stable and some Rehab-focused divisions are actually showing a gradual increase in members after previous declines. Divisions 7 (Low Vision), 11

(Rehab Teaching) and 15 (Aging) are gradually gaining members.

However, It appears that the overall Rehab "presence" within AER is diminishing and is an issue of importance to tackle. The appropriate questions are, "Why is this occurring?" and "What can be done about it?"

As to why this is occurring, some of the opinions offered include:

- Rehab administrators in general do not believe professional membership is that important and do not encourage their staff to become members.
- The Rehab-focused divisions within AER are not providing sufficiently strong programs and overall services to their members.
- AER has not been active enough at NCSAB (National Council of State Agencies for the Blind) and NCPAB (National Council of Private Agencies for the Blind) meetings and other venues where Rehab administrators gather.
- AER program content at International, Regional and State meetings in general has not included enough Rehab topics to attract Rehab professionals.
- AER program planners at all levels need some help in identifying good Rehab training topics and speakers.
- Rehab professionals frequently are not provided financial support to assist with AER conference attendance.
- Whether reality based or not, there is a perception that AER is an education-focused organization.
- Consumer group members probably do not know enough

about why AER is important to them.

Please note that these "issues" are debatable and represent individual impressions. However, they are helpful as "perceived" issues to be given our attention and consideration. Following is a partial list of "action steps" thus far identified.

- Contact the NRA (National Rehabilitation Association) and NRCA (National Rehabilitation Counselor Association) to see if they are also losing membership and, if so, what they are doing to address this concern (this is already in process).

- Increase AER's visibility at NCSAB, NCPAB and other similar meetings (this is also already in process).

- Develop a list of Rehab relevant topics and suggested speakers to share with AER program planners (also in process).

- Contact state chapter presidents and division representatives to discuss the Rehab member issues and ideas (this process began at AER-Lift in May 2001).

- Develop a concrete list of reasons to belong to AER. The underlying belief is that people will join what is meaningful to them.

The issue of AER's decreasing Rehabilitation membership and steps towards solution require a lengthy process of consciousness-raising, dialogue and meaningful actions. We know that all AER members, whatever their particular emphasis, will gain from this process. In the long run, not only we but those we serve will benefit. Talk about this topic with fellow professionals and share any ideas with us.





ACVREP Update

By Eileen Siffermann, COMS, President, Academy for Certification of Vision Rehabilitation and Education Professionals

Continuing Competence

The beginning of a new year brings a review and assessment of where we have been and where we are going. In some families, the first week of January is a time to set yearly goals in the areas of friends/family relationships, physical well being, spiritual and personal achievements, and work and financial planning. However, we also need to look at our professional condition. For those of you who hold professional certification, the recertification process provides the opportunity for a self-assessment of your professional competencies. Each of us should take sometime to reflect on what it would take to make us better at our chosen profession. Within the field of blindness and visual impairment there is an ever-growing body of knowledge. It takes a commitment to keep up with the current literature. Each of us most likely has some gaps in our body of knowledge. It might be of benefit to read over the body of knowledge of your chosen profession, which is written in the certification handbooks and can be downloaded from the ACVREP web site. www.acvrep.org then determine what areas you see as needing improvement and write a plan for yourself. Most of us are very good at writing individual plans for our students, but what about you?

Once you have a plan and have listed your needs, the challenge is where to go for the

required service. One way to achieve continuing competence is to participate in continuing education. AER is building their continuing education offerings. If each of you listed five improvement areas, such as improved knowledge on the use of pedestrian signals, computer technology for the blind, strategies for teaching wheel chair mobility, devices and techniques for teaching reading to students with low vision, and grant writing techniques, and then search out those organization, either professional organizations or education institutions, to find the offering that would meet your needs. If you are unable to locate such offerings, then you will have to use your skills of self-advocacy. It might be that we need to be pro-active and ask for what is needed rather than to just wait for someone else to anticipate what is needed.

Within the next few months, ACVREP will be initiating a process by which continuing education offerings will be reviewed and approved by ACVREP for recertification. We are hopeful that these programs will be designed to assist professional to obtain advanced instruction and specialized skills beyond those required at the entry professional level. These approved continuing education programs will then be listed on the ACVREP web site as well as being advertised by the organization that is offering the program. ACVREP is committed to the standard of a successful continuing competence program through recertification. Such a program should promote education through the duration of one's professional life. ■

AER Call for 2002 Resolutions

The AER 2002 Resolutions Committee requests your participation in preparing resolutions for consideration at the AER 2002 International Conference in Toronto, July 17-21. Please forward suggestions for resolutions to the Committee in care of AER.

Collectively, AER's Resolutions contain the opinions, will or intent of the Association and reflect, in a formal way, AER members' aspiration for the Association. Members are invited to propose appropriate topics for consideration at the AER business meeting scheduled at the Conference.

Committee members will assist in preparing suggestions into the appropriate format.

Please forward resolutions or topics for resolutions to: Wendy David, Chair, AER Resolutions Committee, PO Box 22397, Alexandria, VA 22304 or FAX them to 703/823-9695. For more information, contact Wendy David in Bellevue, WA, at 206/762-1010, Ext. 1524. Other members of the Committee are Gary Everhart, Canon City, CO; Sharon Zell Sacks, Pleasanton, CA; Dona Sauerburger, Gambrills, MD; Jay Stiteley, Chicago, IL and Linda Studholm, Toronto, ON, Canada. ■

The 3% Chapter Challenge!

By Carol Otten, COMS, Chair, AER Membership Committee

The AER Board of Directors and the AER Membership Committee challenged chapters to increase their overall membership by 3% between July 1 and December 31, 2001.

While AER did not meet the goal of increasing overall membership by 3%, several individual chapters did increase their own membership by at least 3%. A total of 168 new members joined AER for the first time during the six month period. Unfortunately, several current members did not renew their membership for 2002.

Congratulations to the following chapters and their mem-

bers who met the challenge: Arkansas, Georgia, Kentucky, New Jersey, Oregon, Southern California, Tennessee, and Utah. Special recognition goes to



Tennessee which increased membership by 11.3%.

Nominating peers and colleagues for our organization to contact has proved to be a successful tool in our quest to

gain new members. Please continue to be an advocate for AER in your work place and among your peers.

If you would like to nominate an individual colleague or friend for AER membership, please contact the AER office (e-mail <aer@aerbvi.org> or telephone 877/492-2708 and request the nomination form. Or just send the name and address of the person you would like to nominate to the Membership Committee in care of Jackie Fairbarns at AER, P.O. Box 22397, Alexandria, VA 22304. ■

Compensation and Benefits - *Continued from page 1*

metropolitan Cleveland area. Board and administration support highest professional standards. Excellent personnel practices, medical and psychiatric consultants on staff. Agency is field work training center for graduate school of social work. Salary range \$4620 - \$6440.

- Position Open: Supervisor of case work. Services to the blind. Wisconsin state program. Supervise the field personnel including case

work supervision and staff development. Coordinate public information and statewide Optical Aids Program. Salary range, \$5000 to \$5800. Desirable qualifications: college graduation and a combination of four years of graduate training and experience in social work, rehabilitation or counseling. This may have been in work for the blind or in an appropriate allied field. Responsibilities in this position require normal vision. Services for the Blind, State Department of Public Welfare, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Please note the fringe benefits for one job included beautiful scenery in addition to a weekly salary of \$38.00. Also note the need for "normal vision" in another position announcement, and no mention of any special credential for teaching blind children other than "ingenuity" in another. While it's fun to look back some 50 years to the way things were, it is less comfortable to look ahead 50 years and consider how people in the 2050s will reflect on our salaries and job announcements. And I wonder what will they see as our archaic beliefs, salaries, and prejudices?■

Thank you.

A special word of thanks to the more than 2,000 professionals who have responded to the salary survey as this issue goes to press. For those who have not responded, please do so as soon as possible. Your input is critical to developing an accurate, valid picture of employment among professionals in our field(s). The information you provide is confidential and only summaries of the data will be published. ■

AER-Lift 2002: Light the Fire Within!

The tenth annual AER AER-Lift Training Seminar for Chapter and Division leaders will be held at the Little America Hotel in Salt Lake City, April 19-21.

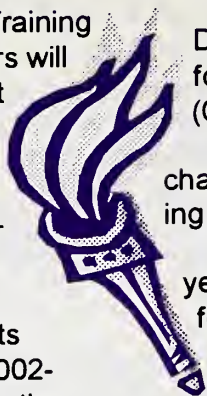
Preparations at AER-Lift for the International Conference in Toronto include selection of at-large candidates for the AER Board of Directors by chapters within each District.

The Council of Chapter Presidents (CCP) will meet to elect a chair for the 2002-2004 term. Elections will also be held for the

Division Representatives on the AER Board and for the Chair of the Council of Division Chairs (CDC).

Registration materials have been sent to chapters and divisions, and the deadline for returning completed materials to AER is March 21, 2002.

The April, 2002 AER-Lift marks the tenth year AER has provided this concentrated training for state chapter and division leaders. Former AER president Michael Bina, who presided over the first AER-Lift, will make the welcoming address. ■



2002 Calendar of Events

April 13, 2002 – Western Michigan University/Institute for Innovative Blind Navigation Regional Seminar "Advances in Wayfinding Technologies; Innovations in Blind Navigation. Contact Doug Baldwin <baldwind@resc.saginaw.k12.mi.us>

April 18-19, 2002 – Nebraska Vision Conference, Educational Service Unit #10, Kearney, NE. Contact Betty Widoe, 402/293-5040

April 18-19, 2002 – Michigan AER Annual Conference, Crowne Plaza Hotel, Ann Arbor, MI. Contact John McMahon <mcmahonj@state.mi.us> or Mary Beth Kullen <kullen@upshawinst.org>

April 19-20, 2002 – Hawaii AER Transitions Workshop with Karen Wolffe. Contact Dave Eveland (808/586-5311; FAX 808/586-5288) or Sam Fisk (808/586-5270)

April 19-21, 2002 – AER-Lift Leadership Conference for AER Chapters and Divisions, Salt Lake City. Contact AER 877/491-2708 for information.

April 22, 2002 – NJ AER Spring Meeting. Contact njaer@aol.com for meeting announcements or other information.

April 25-28 2002 – Guide Dogs for the Blind O&M Seminar, Bor-ing, OR. Contact Leslie Edmonds, 800-295-4050 X 4058, or e-mail <ledmonds@guidedogs.com>

May 13-14, 2002 – Arkansas AER Annual Conference, "Staying in Step with AER," Holiday Inn Airport, North Little Rock, AR. Contact Kathy Brown, 501/324-2192 <kmbrown@annex.irsd.k12.ar.us> or Ginny McWilliams <ginny.mcwilliams@mail.state.us>

May 16-18, 2002 – Leader Dogs for the Blind O&M Training Program, Rochester, MI. Contact Rod Haneline 888/777-5332.

June 20-22, 2002 – Leader Dogs for the Blind O&M Training Program, Rochester, MI.

Contact Rod Haneline 888/777-5332

July 17-21, 2002 – AER 2002 International Conference, Westin Harbour Castle Hotel, Toronto, Ontario, Canada. Contact: AER 877/492-2708 or e-mail <aer@aerbvi.org>

July 26-28, 2002 – O&M Seminars, Guiding Eyes for the Blind, Yorktown Heights, NY. Contact Bev Klayman 800/942-0149 or e-mail <admissions@guidingeyes.org>

August 9-11, 2002 – O&M Seminars, Guiding Eyes for the Blind, Yorktown Heights, NY. Contact Bev Klayman 800/942-0149 or e-mail <admissions@guidingeyes.org>

October 24-25, 2002 – Arizona AER Fall Conference, Prescott, AZ. Contact Penny Rosenblum, 520/621-1223, e-mail <rosenblu@u.arizona.edu> or website at www.ed.arizona.edu/azaer

October 24-25, Wisconsin AER Conference, Milwaukee, WI. Contact Trudy Stachowiak, 715/985-2020 ■

The Shortage of Vision Rehabilitation Personnel:

A Task Force Report

By Lisa-Anne Mowerson, RTC

When Abby lost her vision to diabetic retinopathy, she thought her life was over. Abby was an energetic, 32-year-old free lance writer, married, with two young children. Now she was no longer able to care for her children, herself and, worst of all, she felt her career was gone forever. A significant milestone in her road to recovery occurred the day Abby met Nancy. Over the course of several months, these two women met two times a week. Nancy helped Abby learn how to do all those basic tasks of everyday life that she had learned casually as a person with sight. Nancy taught Abby how to use her other senses, develop adaptive techniques and even to use braille. Who was this "Nancy"? Nancy was a rehabilitation teacher, a certified professional from a historic past of vision rehabilitation professionals developed in the 1890's.

In this new century, rehabilitation teachers are needed more than ever. Nationally, the need for rehabilitation teachers continues to escalate due to the substantial number of eye and vision disorders that are primarily age related. The Lighthouse National Survey on Vision Loss, (LH executive summary 1996) states that one in six Americans over the age of 45 reports some form of vision impairment. For decades, U.S. surveys have shown a steady increase. Key factors that affect this trend are expected to continue for at least another decade, along with the demand for vision related services. (Kichner, 1999) In 1991,

the American Foundation for the Blind predicted nearly 6 million severely visually impaired elders in the United States by 2030, not including those in nursing homes (Nelson, 1991)

The shortage of trained vision rehabilitation professionals extends beyond Rehabilitation Teachers. We are also experiencing similar shortages in training qualified professionals to teach travel training for persons with a vision impairment, Orientation and Mobility Specialists as well as Low Vision Specialists.

The national crisis in the availability of trained rehabilitation teachers to provide services to adults who are blind and visually impaired was one of the key issues that surfaced in July 1999 as the profession of Rehabilitation Teaching gathered in Kalamazoo, MI at Rehabilitation Teaching: The Next Century. The purpose of this conference was to address critical issues in the documentation, preparation and continuation of the profession of Rehabilitation Teaching. Following this conference, conference planners met with Carl Augusto and Alberta Orr at American Foundation for the Blind to discuss outcomes of the conference and to find ways to address the shortage issue. It was decided to organize a breakfast roundtable at the AER International conference in Denver 2000. This breakfast would bring together invited participants to represent three distinct groups: private agency directors, leaders from the vision

service professions of rehabilitation teaching, orientation and mobility and low vision and program coordinators from university personnel preparation programs.

The roundtable agenda focused specifically on the topic of vision personnel shortages and was designed as an open dialogue to foster sharing of strategies, issues and concerns. The open format was key to the successful outcome of this meeting. The attendees at this forum were greatly surprised and encouraged by the information shared and the partnership that seemed to develop.

Early direct results of this partnership included:

- Creation of a task force to address personnel shortages in Vision rehabilitation.
- A commitment by the National Council of Private Agencies for the Blind (NCPAB) to present a resolution to their members at the fall meeting. This resolution would be a commitment to hire certified vision rehabilitation professionals, if available. (This resolution was passed in Fall 2000)
- A commitment from the professional organizations of AER, (Div. 7 Low Vision, Div. 9 Orientation and Mobility, and Div. 11 Rehabilitation Teaching) to create standards for training and use of paraprofessionals that would be acceptable to the professions and the agencies.

Continued on page 10

The Shortage of Vision Rehabilitation Personnel (*from page 9*)

- A commitment from the universities and professions to share training program information and initiatives with agency and state directors.

The participants at this meeting also discussed creative solutions for approaching the issues of recruitment and retention of personnel. Some of the suggestions presented included:

- Offering a signing bonus at hire to new staff (e.g. \$5,000)
- Additional incentives to all personnel such as benefit packages
- Continuing education training for existing staff
- Restructuring current positions - part time jobs, job sharing and fee for service
- Looking to university specialty programs for recruitment such as gerontology programs, medical assistants

The first meeting of the new task force convened in October 2000 at AFB in New York. Representatives at this meeting included persons from NCAPB, AER Divisions 9, 11 and 17 (University Personnel Preparation) and AFB.

Critical issues addressed previously by the participants and further expanded by this meeting included:

- Sharing of information within these three representative groups and beyond to dispel misconceptions and correct inaccurate information
- Continued networking of the vision rehabilitation professions, hiring agencies and personnel preparation programs to work on solutions to the immediate crisis

- Development of a plan to address the long range need of recruitment and retention of vision rehabilitation professionals

Additional topics presented included:

- Investigating and seeking inclusion in a variety of directories for professions. Directories discussed included Health Professions Educational Directory, published by the American Medical Association and the Occupational Outlook Handbook.
- Discussion around similar groups and topics. These included: AFB and collaborative efforts to work with the Occupational Therapy Association; National Agenda on Vision and Aging and its Goal 4 group; National Agenda on Children and Goal 3 and the Personnel Preparation Summit on Shortages in Education which occurred January 2001.

Since this first meeting, the task force has met several times. The actions of this committee have included the following:

- Working with the editors of Health Professions Education Dictionary and Health Professions Educational Standards for the inclusion of the professions Rehabilitation Teaching, Orientation and Mobility Specialist and Low Vision Therapist.
- Establishing links from the Galaxy Directories, a web search engine, to Vision Rehabilitation Websites
- Sending representatives from the vision rehabilitation professions of RT and O&M, and representatives from university training programs for RT and O&M to the 2001 spring

meeting of NCPAB

At the spring NCPAB meeting in Portland, ME, a number of creative long term and short term solutions to the personnel crisis were presented by the NCPAB members and Task Force representatives. When appropriate, groups were identified to work with these solutions.

Short term solutions Agencies

- The hiring of similar professions, such as OT's, adaptive physical education, home economics instructors to fill the service gap. Provide blindness specific training and supervision using university courses, certified vision rehabilitation professions. Stress the need for these other professionals to obtain appropriate vision rehabilitation certification.
- Agencies, private and state, have a stake in university training programs for vision rehabilitation professionals. These agencies need to find ways to financially support university training programs.
 - a) Provide tuition stipends to students with the stipend forgiven when the student graduates and becomes a member of agency staff. Suggested equation would be one year of tuition equals two years of service.
 - b) Provide university programs with adjunct teachers from agency staff. Agency would cover portion of "salary" of teacher and provide release time for this staff member to teach and prepare for teaching at the university.
 - c) Provide university programs with materials resources. These may in-

clude marketing resources from agency's board of directors, training space at an agency or supplies for instruction.

- Provide stipends and training support to interns from university training programs. Studies have shown that interns choose to seek employment at agencies that support internships.

Universities

- Share student capacities at each university and enrollment openings with private agencies and state agencies. This will help agencies to support and encourage students to fill university openings and keep programs operating at capacity.
- Increase marketing. Target older students returning for second careers. Use agency resources to develop marketing programs. Use vision rehabilitation professionals to promote the marketing project.
- Share potential students with similar training programs. Encourage dual degrees.

Professional

- Support and encourage research being conducted by AER regarding regional and national salary averages for vision rehabilitation professionals.
- Marketing must be done. To younger students, market a career path not a career. To older students, market a career of significance. This group is not necessarily seeking success but meaning in their career choice.

Long-term solutions Agencies

- Provide creative benefits. Most professionals are looking for more than just a salary.
 - a) Flex time
 - b) Allowing paperwork to be done at home
 - c) Vacation time, beyond the traditional time granted. This should include time off as a sabbatical to write, to take a class, or to travel for a learning experience
 - d) Training such as additional coursework or attendance at professional workshops and conferences
- Seek to raise salaries. Offer hiring bonuses and moving expenses to new employees
- Support the professional training of paraprofessionals. Encourage a career ladder in vision rehabilitation professionalism.
- Encourage and support universities in developing distance education training models and regional training models

Universities

- Develop viable distance education training models for professionals.
- Develop regional training models and work more closely with agencies to support regional training programs.
- Establish a national clearinghouse on curriculum so universities can share resources when developing distance education or regional training programs.
- Re-develop and encourage existing undergraduate personnel preparation training

programs.

- Work to create a professional career ladder for professionals. Agencies want and should have a higher expectation of Master's level professionals. A career difference should exist between Master's and Undergraduate professionals.
- Master's degree professionals should be trained to supervise and have administrative skills. Currently there is also an unaddressed shortage of vision rehabilitation professionals prepared to work as administrators.
- Decrease dependency on federal funding sources and seek non-traditional grants. Work with local and regional agencies to develop funding resources.
- Establish trust funds for training using private partnerships. Work with agency resources to develop such partnerships.
- Collaborate with similar training programs such as Occupational Therapy or Home Economics to develop shared training or dual degrees.

Professional

- Orientation and Mobility, (AER Div. 9) and Rehabilitation Teaching, (AER Div. 11) need to be committed to developing a career ladder in their fields of expertise.
- O&M and RT must work with agencies to create guidelines for the use of paraprofessionals.
- O&M and RT must work with agencies, universities and training programs to develop training guidelines and programs for paraprofessionals.

Continued on page 12

- O&M and RT must work with agencies, universities and training programs to develop training guidelines and programs for paraprofessionals.
- Vision rehabilitation professionals need to be trained as mentors and recruiters. Studies have shown that professionals enter the field of vision rehabilitation as a direct result of knowing or meeting someone in the profession.
- AER and other professional organizations need to develop unified marketing tools. Professionals need to be trained about these and how to use these resources.
- Provide continued research on the professions of rehabilitation
- What keeps people in the profession for the long term? Retention programs?
 - a. What are the statistics regarding long term employment?
 - b. What is the current career ladder and projections for future growth?
 - c. Salary studies reflective of a career ladder and geographical differences

Provide continuing education opportunities to increase professionalism and to support certification by ACVREP.

Goals Summary

The outlined goals clearly define steps that all networking partners need to implement. Strategies for implementation need to be considered. Since this list was developed several goals have been addressed. These include:

- Development of Rehabilitation Teaching Assistant guidelines for use and training standards for personnel preparation.

- Development of an AER personnel recruitment task force to address the issues of mentoring, recruitment and marketing.
- An-email network to share student capacities at University training programs with agencies.
- Development of several distance education training programs. These include:

For Orientation and Mobility

North Carolina Central University
PA College of Optometry
Stephen F. Austin State University
University of Arizona
University of Arkansas/Little Rock
University of Northern Colorado

For Rehabilitation Teaching

Northern Illinois University
Pennsylvania College of Optometry
University of Arkansas
Western Michigan University

Future Directions

It is the intent of the Task Force to address shortages of vision rehabilitation personnel and to continue to partner with agencies, professionals and personnel training programs to carry out as many of the outlined goals as possible. The task force is committed to documenting the progress in these areas as well as pointing to goals that need additional attention. The task force is working to educate other professions, especially job developers, about vision rehabilitation professions by seeking inclusion in a number of occupational handbooks and web links. A plan to step-up recruitment efforts by developing a solid marketing effort with the expertise of a marketing professional is un-

derway. The task force is continuing its efforts to create networks and additional professional partnerships.

Ways to become involved

- Contact the Task force at AFB, Alberta Orr
- Encourage your agency to participate in the agency goals listed for short term and long term
- Join your professional organization and help in the development of professional networks and a career ladder
- Encourage new recruits to attend university training programs and to seek certification.
- Encourage similar professionals practicing in the field of vision rehabilitation to become certified as vision rehabilitation professionals
- Become a mentor and encourage new professionals to stay in the field of vision rehabilitation
- Work with agencies to develop career incentives and continuing education opportunities

Summary

Thirty years later, Abby's sister, now 70, has begun to lose her vision to age related macular degeneration. Who is going to be there for her and others like her when they need the training and support to cope with vision loss? How are the growing numbers of persons coping with vision loss going to gain the confidence and skills they need to be independent members of our society? Only those professionals who understand this critical issue can address the important role and need for vision rehabilitation

Continued on page 15

A list of individuals certified by AER during the calendar year 2000 was published in the December 2001 AER Report. The following names were inadvertently omitted from that Report. They are reported here to complete the AER Annual Report for the Year 2000.

2000 Orientation and Mobility Certifications

INITIAL PROFESSIONAL

Abdelnour, Sarah
Andrews, Michael
Benson, Sandra
Calaci, Lisa
Carrington, Pamela
Debich, Kristen
Derrick, James
Duseau, Janice
Fencer, John, Jr.
Fife, Kelly
Grundy, Teresa
Linn, Kerri
Murray, Mary Katherine
Nagle, Susan
Pollard, Mary
Saint, Maria
Schmidt, Ginger
Steinberg, Bonnie
Van Koevering, Thomas
Yacoubian, Cheryl

RENEWABLE O&M

Adkins, Mary
Andrews, J. Ray
Aquino, Gayle
Attebery, Thomas
Barber, Ann
Barnett-Hollick, Barbara
Batho, Beverly
Beck, Michael
Bellah, Edgenie
Bergeron, Cynthia
Blanding-Madison, Shirley
Blaylock, Luanne
Bourquin, Eugene
Bowie, Ray
Boyd, Trina
Brady-Simmons, Carol
Brandt, Harvey, III
Bridges, Lynne
Burke, Suzy
Burns, James
Carter, Mark
Cates, Dennis
Chmielinski, Stephanie

Coin-Walilko, Joann
Colella, Michael
Connell, Dennis
Conroy, Paula
Consilio, Bernadette
Cooper, Judy
Cowper, D. Thomas
Cox, Jodi
Danel, Jeffrey
Dannenberg, Audrey
Daubenspeck, Mary
Daugherty, William
Davis, Julia
Delage, Diane
Dodson-Burke, Bonnie
Doherty, Lisa Deanna
Dykes, James
Ensing, Gary
Fitzgerald, Susan
Flaherty, Erin
Flick, Sonya
Floegel, Maureen
Ford, Kathleen
Ford, Keith
Foreman, Steven
Gainan-Larsen, Heidi
Gallagher, Margaret
Gaumnitz, Julie
Gayton, R. Bill
Guittari, Lelia
Griffin, Donna
Griffith, Julie
Hall, C. Jean
Hamrick, Cynthia
Hanna, Richard
Harrold, Linda
Hawkins-Tienken, Allison
Heathon, Stephanie
Heil, C.
Hjorth, Kendra
Holcomb, Charles
Honan, Michael
Horner, Patricia
Houghton, Joan
Hwang, Tom
Irwin, Virginia

Iuro, Joanne
Jaffray, Lila
Janssen, Deborah
Janssen, Lori
Johnson, Jane
Johnson, Meredith
Johnson, Patricia
Johnson, Rosalind
Jones, Jimmy
Jones, Michelle
Kadey, Lynda
Kafka, Lucie
Kaufman, Amy
Ketts, Linda
Kirk, Alan
Kooyer-Supplitt, Debora
Lampert, Richard
Leberman, Ami
Leigh, Laurel
Levy, Nancy
Lewis, Carol
Lewis, Patricia
Li, Tsai-Ping
Ligammari, Karen
Lockridge, Paula
Long, Richard
Loux, Karyl
Lowry, Susan
Lyle, Sherril
MacDonald, Jo Ellen
MacDonald, Leanna
Macleod Coscore, Connie
Magiera, Kathleen
Malkin, Jayne
Martin, Benita
Martin, James
Martin, Linda
Mason, Andrew
Mazzola, Suzanne
McCullough, Lisa
McKey, Desiree
McMahon, James, Jr.
McWilliams, Heidil
Mehlhorn, Karen
Mensik, Kerri
Milewich, Susana

Morgan, Kathryn
 Morgan, Lynn
 Mullen, Suzanne
 Napolillo, Beth
 Neill, Pamela
 Nelson, Gema
 Niklewicz Bertram, Yolanta
 Northrop, Philip
 Nuss, Gary
 Oates, Daniel
 Olphie, Sandra
 Patterson, Susan
 Perna, Paul
 Phillips, Elaine
 Piotrowski, Edward
 Pollock, Andrew
 Popko, Jo-Anne
 Postle, Sandi
 Pratt, Doreen
 Purchis, Laura
 Quolke, David
 Quolke, Lucy
 Rausch, Daniel
 Reading-Hall, Ruth
 Reynolds, Lisa
 Richardson, Kim
 Rieck, Janet
 Robertson, Christine
 Robertson-Hagearty, Margaret
 Rodriguez, Alice
 Roman, Christine
 Rose, Cecelia
 Rundell, Mary
 Saxe, Adele
 Sayler, Monica
 Schoonover, James
 Shepardson, Carol
 Sherman, Grace
 Siska, Lori
 Skibski, Linda
 Slay, David
 Smith, Charlotte
 Snead, Joseph
 Snook-Hill, Mary-Maureen
 Stark, Paul
 Studebaker, Julia
 Sudore, Paula
 Sunberg, Robert
 Tessier, Maria
 Tessitore, Christine
 Thiebaud, Helen
 Thomas, John
 Thompson, Deborah

Thompson, Thirza
 Toomey, William
 Traut-Savino, Timothy
 Trusty, Sharon
 Tufts, Catherine
 Van Koevering, Denise
 Wagner, Patricia
 Wall, Robert
 West, Joyce
 Westman-Minnig, Jenny
 Wiggins, Susan
 Winnik, Mark
 Wittbrodt, Gary
 Wojcik, Michael
 Wood, Karen

Wright, Bruce
 Wright, Darick
 Yachcik, Crystal
 Yarrow, Darlene
 Yeagers, Rebecca
 Yu, Zhichao
 Zhu, Ying

OMA TRAINER/SUPERVISOR

Rieck, Janet
 Slay, David
 Stevenson, John

OMA INITIAL

Brakenhoff, Mary

2000 Rehabilitation Teaching Certifications

INITIAL "A"

Hussein, Sahar
 Saint-Fort, Ana

INITIAL "AA"

Austin, Deanna
 Phillips, Celecia

RENEWABLE RT

Acevedo-Ribot, Zulma
 Beck, Michael
 Bridges, Chelsa
 Bringle, Barbara
 Buck, Kathleen
 Chamberlain, Elizabeth
 Duboise, Lee
 Dunlap-Gist, Rosalyn
 Good, Gretchen
 Harris, Claudette
 Heap, Monica
 Hogan, Dennis
 Homer, Bette

Hunt, Linda
 Jiang, Zhengping
 Joos, Amy
 Keeley, Maryrose
 Kikkeri, Prema
 Klennert, Shelly
 Mace, Sean
 Marchand, Mary
 Mazzola, Suzanne
 McInnis, Janet
 Mercado, Kathleen
 O'Donnell, Eileen
 Rafferty, Jane
 Smith, Jeffrey
 Steen, Barbara
 Tate, Minta
 Thompson, Thirza
 Unger, James
 Walsh, Susan
 Whitlow, Emery
 Whittaker, Pamela
 Zuwala, Barbara

2000 Teacher of the Visually Impaired Certifications

INITIAL PROFESSIONAL

Keller, Marcia
 Lyons, Betty
 Quotskuyva, Sophia

RENEWABLE TVI

Andrews, J. Ray

Baker, Linda
 Daniels, Colena
 Dolley, Mary Jo
 Fischbach, Tevan
 Harper, Walter, Jr.
 Jones, Bettye

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Year 2000 Certifications

2000 Teacher of the Visually Impaired Certifications

Renewable TVI (continued)

Keys, Kimble	Putnam, Sandra
Leonard, Jane	Sudore, Pamela
Miller, Diane	Thompson, James
Murillo, Louis	Thompson, Rosie
Payne, Sandra	Wilberg, Debra

2000 Low Vision Therapist Certifications

INITIAL LVT

Chapman, Elizabeth	Robinson, Carol
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Note: This list, beginning on page 12, is an addendum to the list published in the December 2001 issue of the AER Report. ■

The Shortage of Vision Rehabilitation Personnel (continued from page 12)

professionals. It is the responsibility and privilege of the field of blindness and vision impairment to do so.

Resources:

Task Force to Address Shortages of Vision Rehabilitation Personnel, American Foundation for the Blind, Alberta Orr. Alorr@afb.org

National Council of Private Agencies for the Blind, (NCPAB) Dale Otto, Dale.otto@clb.org

Association for the Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired, www.aerbvi.org ■

Division Docket

International Conference "Division Day" Expands

Tuesday, July 16, 2002

Division Day at the International Conference has been expanded to include three AER Divisions. Joining Division 9 (O&M) are Divisions 16 (Itinerant Personnel) and 11 (Rehab Teaching) in day-long focus sessions. Following are highlights of these not-to-be-missed sessions.

Itinerant Personnel – Division 16 Day By Nancy Toelle

Are You Overloaded? Overwhelmed? Let us Help!

Are you an itinerant teacher who feels the size of your caseload prevents you from providing quality services to all your students? Do you feel overwhelmed and helpless to correct this situation? If so, take a proactive stance by attending the Itinerant Personnel sponsored Division 16 Day – Completing a Caseload Analysis" at the AER Conference in Toronto.

Skills you will learn:

- ♦ Reasons to conduct a caseload analysis and resources needed
- ♦ Instruction in the use of two caseload analysis instruments

A E R L O O M

2002 AER International Conference
July 17-21, 2002 / Toronto, Canada

WEAVING A TAPESTRY OF SERVICES

ASSOCIATION FOR EDUCATION AND REHABILITATION OF THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED

- ♦ Using at least one instrument with your own caseload – bring list of students, grade level and if they are consultative or direct students
- ♦ Steps for caseload analysis training with your district staff
- ♦ Presenting analysis summary to administration with recommendations.

Audience: Itinerant Teachers of Students with Visual Impairments (TVIs) Supervisors of TVIs, Administrative Personnel

Date and Time: July 16, 2002 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Location: Westin Harbor Castle Hotel – room to be announced

Fee: \$25 for AER Division 16 members
\$40 for non-members

O&M - Division 9 Day

An intensive, all-day workshop focusing on Environmental Access led by Janet Barlow, Beezy Bentzen and Lukas Franck. After a day of interactive

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A E R L O O M

2002 AER International Conference July 17-21, 2002 / Toronto, Canada

WEAVING A TAPESTRY OF SERVICES

ASSOCIATION FOR EDUCATION AND REHABILITATION OF THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED

Division Docket

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small group activities inside and out, Grace Ambrose is planning an evening of fun involving prizes and games and/or an orienteering event or treasure hunt through Toronto, concluding at a fun place. Bring your own blindfold or simulator. Registration is \$25 for the entire day.

Rehabilitation Teaching – Division 11 Day

By: Bruci Hawkins, Chair-elect

We are very pleased to report that for the first time, Division 11 will be hosting its own "Day" for Rehabilitation teachers to focus on issues and resources of particular interest to Division 11 members. We plan to make this

a sizzling experience with activities ranging from show&tell and hands-on experiences with adaptive equipment to a discussion of the results of the membership vote on Rehabilitation Teaching Assistant (RTA) standards and more. Below is the preliminary program for our Division Day.

Morning

9:00. Welcome: Division 11
Chair Maureen A. Duffy

9:15 APH Adult Life Products: hands-on experiences with equipment plus a chance to let them know what new things would be of use to us.

10:15 Hadley School: find out what's new, and how we might incorporate their course offerings into our programs.

11:00 RTA Discussion: after the vote, what's next?

Noon Catered lunch: scavenger hunt, meet the authors and Wall of Fame.

Afternoon

1:30 Show&Tell: Bring something to share that you have developed or discovered.

3:00 Division 11 Projects: oral history and RT cookbook.

4:00 Business meeting and auction: please note, this will be the first of two business meetings, and is open to all, whether or not attending Division Day.

6:00 Adjournment: on your own for the evening. ■



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AER Report

Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired

Blindness Professionals Placed on Endangered Species List: Services for Students and Clients At Risk

By Mark Richert, AER Executive Director

Did you know that the government has placed professionals in the field of blindness and visual impairment on the endangered species list? Well, the government should at any rate for it appears that our field is in danger of going the way of the bald eagle and the snail darter. Just consider these facts.

Approximately eight million people in the United States have trouble seeing words or letters in ordinary print, even with glasses. An additional 2 million cannot see words or letters at all. Of these, approximately 250,000 are either totally blind or nearly blind (perceiving light only). Only about 85,000 blind or visually impaired people use braille, many of whom can use braille only for discrete tasks.

Based on these numbers, an additional 10,000 Orientation and Mobility Specialists are needed immediately to meet the need for such training. Unfortunately, only about 100 new O&M Specialists are being added each year.

Persons 55 years and older constitute almost two-thirds (about 6.5 million) of all visually impaired Americans. However, only about 700 Rehabilitation Teachers are currently available in the U.S. to help provide independent living services to this population. On average, current RTs have a caseload of 35 clients; one-on-one instruction is minimal.

There are only a handful of specialized university RT training programs that graduate about 40 new RTs per year. Most older visually impaired people do not receive RT services at all or even know they exist.

Children with visual impairments have been losing ground in special education for years due to a longstanding teacher shortage. Over half the states in the U.S. have no programs to train teachers of blind or visually impaired students, and existing programs cannot always reach an entire state.

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The AER Mission:

To develop and promote professional excellence through support of those who provide services to people with visual impairments.

From the President

A CRACKPOT CHIEF MOVES ON

Thanks for the memories, AER tribe!

This is my last "From the President" column for *AER Report*. I hope you've enjoyed reading them as much as I've enjoyed writing them. I honestly had no idea I had so much to say; or that anyone would care to read it. I know many of you have because you've let me know when my words tickled your fancy, or struck a particularly sensitive nerve, or simply conveyed what you thought needed to be said or not said. At times, I've enjoyed your comments more than I enjoyed writing the articles.

Something I haven't said nearly enough is how spectacular AER members are. One of the real perks of being AER President is being invited to attend and present at AER chapter meetings. I've been able to take part in the meetings of 21 of the 40 AER chapters. Each chapter is refreshingly different and exciting. I never fail to be amazed and affirmed by your passion for your jobs and this field. I am awed by your knowledge, your creativity, your humility, and your dedication to assuring that blind and visually impaired individuals receive the highest quality services. Thanks for being so supportive. Thanks

for keeping me focused. Thanks for reminding me why I chose this path.

I also want to thank my partners, the architects of change, the AER Board: Marie Amer-son, Debbie Arnold, Laura Bozeman, Marybeth Dean, Bryan Gerritsen, Greg Goodrich, Pat Leader, Peggy Madera, Linda Mamer, Mary Nelle McClennan, Tom Miller, Lisa-Anne Mowerson, Carol Otten, Dona Sauerburger, Olivia Schonberger, and Elaine Sveen. These individuals are quite simply the most complete group of professionals with whom I have ever had the privilege to work. They have served you well. For me, they have made the last two years of service a joy and a lesson in quality and productivity.

And thanks to my staff member partners: Mark Richert, Jackie Fairbarns, George Chandithuruthel, Kim Gettings, Vince Martino, and Felecia Sharp. AER staff share the same enthusiasm and dedication for our field as AER members. These dedicated, hard-working folks keep our organization operating smoothly and conscientiously focus all efforts on supporting the AER mission.

Finally, my friends, I'd like to share one last anecdote before I go. It's a tale many of you have heard me tell, an old Hindu folk tale about a cracked water pot:



**Billy Brookshire,
AER President
2000-2002**

A certain water bearer, using a long pole across his shoulders, carried two pots of water from the stream to his master's house every day. One pot was cracked and lost half its water on each journey. Over time the cracked water pot began to feel ashamed and apologized to the bearer for its inadequacy. The water bearer, not sure what to say, asked the pot to observe carefully on the next day's trek. At the end of the next day, he asked the pot what it had seen. The pot said it had seen flowers along the path and was cheered somewhat but still unhappy because it was so unproductive. The bearer explained to the pot that he had always known of the flaw, and so he had planted seeds along the path, knowing the water leaking from the pot's crack would nourish the seeds and produce beautiful flowers to grace his master's table.

Just like the pot in the story, we all possess unique differences. Some times we spend so much time focusing on their negative implications that we don't see the strengths inherent in them.

Let me share one such example. In the summer of 1975, I sat at the back of a huge auditorium in the old Gunter Hotel in San Antonio, Texas. The occasion was the first time I attended the statewide conference of the Texas Association of Workers for the Blind. I watched as some very important looking and sounding people carried on the business of the organization. I thought: "I could never do that!" I was convinced that I was not smart

enough, or organized enough, or creative enough, or mainstream enough, or powerful enough, or brave enough to lead any organization.

It took a lot of time, self-search, and a few of my crackpot friends to convince me otherwise. I have gradually come to realize that the personal characteristics I once considered fatal flaws are my own unique strengths. Each is a vital part of my identity and a source of personal power.

Do you have a fatal flaw you need to acknowledge as a powerful and beautiful part of you? Are you avoiding something you want to do because you are convinced you can't do it?

Maybe you need a fresh perspective. Maybe those fatal flaws are actually unique and powerful gifts. Eventually, we must all realize we have inside of us everything we need to succeed. I bet some of you will be sitting at the back of the auditorium in Toronto thinking just what I was thinking in San Antonio. All I can say is: "Stay flexible, my crackpot friends." You never know when the roles might be reversed.

That's all. See you in Toronto! Please keep on taking care of yourselves!■

-Billy Brookshire



Following the April 24, 2002, press conference announcing the introduction of the Instructional Materials Accessibility Act of 2002, AER Executive Director Mark Richert, (at left) joined bill sponsor Senator Christopher Dodd (D-CT), and Paul Schroeder of American Foundation for the Blind to celebrate the the long-awaited event.

AER Report is published six times a year as a membership service. Chapters, divisions, and individual members are encouraged to submit items of interest for publication to:

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AER Report provides for the publication of materials that may represent divergent ideas, judgments, and opinions.

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AER extends a very special "thank you" to the following members for their generous contributions to AER's Lowenfeld Publication, MacFarland Stipend and General Operating Funds:

Carol Elaine Burrows for the Lowenfeld Publications and MacFarland Stipend Funds

Mary Beth Caruso for the MacFarland Stipend Fund

Marybeth Dean for the MacFarland Stipend Fund

Mary D. Fleming for the MacFarland Stipend Fund

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Eleanor L. Mink for the General Operating Fund

J. Elton Moore for the Lowenfeld Publications Fund

John Naler for the William and Dorothy Ferrell Scholarship Fund

Sharon Zell Sacks for the Lowenfeld Publications and MacFarland Stipend Funds

Rosanne K. Silberman for the Lowenfeld Publications Fund

Virginia S. Stolarski for the General Operating Fund

Kay G. Townsend for the General Operating Fund

Richard Welsh for the General Operating Fund

Emery Whitlow for the General Operating Fund ■

What's New at AER H.Q.?

This AER joint is always jumping! Here is a brief synopsis of the activities going on around the AER Headquarter Office...

We welcome Debra Adams, who has joined our staff on a part time, temporary basis in an Executive Assistant capacity.

As we go to press, staff is busy receiving and tallying the ballots for the 2002-2004 AER Board of Directors. Remember to exercise your right as an AER Member and VOTE!

With the deadline for the Salary and Benefits Survey just passed, we are feverishly entering in the more than 2700 responses and tabulating reports.

Mark Richert, AER Executive Director, recently spent time meeting with organizations in the field to discuss relations and collaborations. These meetings included visits to Lighthouse International, American Foundation for the Blind, and the National Federation of the Blind. Meetings with organizations in the field prove to be valuable and important as we work together on common interests. In addition, Mark has been trekking to Chapter meetings across the country, most recently visiting the Penn/Del Chapter.

Staff has just completed the production of a very successful AER-Lift Leadership Conference in Salt Lake City, Utah.



The 82 participants attended breakout sessions, roundtable discussions, and general sessions focusing on how to better lead the association and address the topics pertinent to all members.

And, of course, staff is gearing up for the Toronto Conference. If you haven't already done so, register today. The AER Staff looks forward to adding your name to the attendees' roster! ■



AERLift Attendees "Light the Fire Within!"

The 10th AERLift Leadership Conference opened on April 19, 2002, in Salt Lake City, Utah, with a welcome from Dr. Michael J. Bina, former AER President and founder of the AERLift Leadership Conference. Attendees were also welcomed by Utah's Lt. Governor, the Honorable Olene Walker, Bill Gibson, Director of the Utah Division of Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired, and Lee Robinson, Superintendent of the Utah Schools for the Deaf and Blind. Following the welcome, keynote speaker Mike Schlappi, four-time Olympic medal winner and two-time world champion, inspired and entertained

with his message that even if you can't stand up, you can stand out. He is the only wheel-



Continuing to inspire and delight, keynote speaker Mike Schlappi (center) autographs his book following the opening ceremonies.

chair basketball player in the US to compete in the past four Olympic games.

The full agenda of activities included Dr. Bina's presentation of the exciting new educational partnership between AER and the Hadley School, division and chapter business meetings, breakout sessions on topics as diverse as strategies for recruiting rehabilitation members and how to prepare a treasurer's report. When not actively developing their leadership skills, attendees visited the Snowbird Resort (site of the 2006 International Conference), attended a performance by the Mormon Tabernacle Choir, and hosted a reception in honor of AER's new Executive Director. ■



Playing off the Olympic theme of "light the fire within," AER President Billy Brookshire (holding the Olympic torch at right) and Past President Peggy Madera introduce the AER staff and Board (clad in their distinctive work shirts) and lead a chorus of "Let Your Light Shine On."



After extending a warm welcome to AERLift attendees, Utah's Lt. Governor, the Honorable Olene Walker, describes her experiences with the blindness community for Executive Director Mark Richert.



One of the most enjoyable networking and get acquainted activities at AERLift is the gift exchange, when attendees describe not only themselves, but the significance of the gifts they brought.



Working hard right up to the end on Sunday, attendees pay close attention as President Billy Brookshire explains the Strategic Plan review they will be conducting.

AERLift 2002 Sharing Experience and Expertise



Newly-elected Chair of the Council of Chapter Presidents Sandy Ruconich (right) from the Utah Chapter and Tim Hindman, new Chair of the Council of Division Chairs, relax at the piano during Saturday evening festivities at the Snowbird Resort in the mountains above Salt Lake City.



Wrapping up, Sunday afternoon finds President Brookshire, Treasurer (and candidate for 2002-2004 President-elect) Greg Goodrich (standing) Executive Director Mark Richert and President-elect Elaine Sveen reviewing AER-Lift and looking ahead to the International Conference in Toronto.



AER Chapter Round Up

Jodi Sticken of Northern Illinois received the 2002 Distinguished Service Award from the **Illinois Chapter of AER** in February at the IAER annual conference. This is the highest honor that IAER can bestow. All of us in Illinois believe that Jodi is most deserving of this honor. Way to to, Jodi!

Northern California AER had its bi-annual celebration of professionals, parents, paraprofessionals, and students. Awards were presented at a banquet on May 17, 2002. The following people were celebrated for their wonderfulness.

Jack Hazekamp was honored

for Distinguished Service in his capacity as State Consultant for Vision Services.

Amanda Hall Lueck received the Education Award for her meticulous planning in creating a state-of-the-art teacher prep program at San Francisco State University.

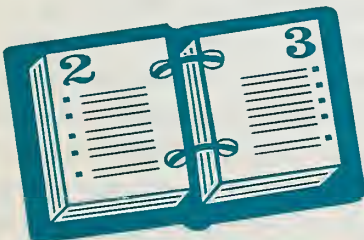
Richard Ludt was bestowed the O&M Award Rehabilitation Division for helping to pioneer innovative and effective mobility techniques.

Steve Suderman-Talco received the O&M Award Education Division for his professional leadership in mentoring O&M interns.

Lourdes Corpuz was honored with the Paraprofessional Award for her creation of artistically accurate graphics and precisely crafted Braille.

The Parent Award was given to **Maryann McBee** for her creative energy in fund raising and for being an exceptionally generous role model as a parent.

And, **Connie Wright** received the Student Award for her hard work in striving to make positive changes for herself and others through her intelligence and sensitivity. ■



2002-2003 Calendar of Events

June 20-22, 2002 – Leader Dogs for the Blind O&M Training Program, Rochester, MI. Contact Rod Haneline 888/777-5332

July 17-21, 2002 – AER 2002 International Conference, Westin Harbour Castle Hotel, Toronto, Ontario, Canada. Contact: AER 877/492-2708 or e-mail <aer@aerbvi.org>

July 26-28, 2002 – O&M Seminars, Guiding Eyes for the Blind, Yorktown Heights, NY. Contact Bev Klayman 800/942-0149 or e-mail <admissions@guidingeyes.org>

August 9-11, 2002 – O&M Seminars, Guiding Eyes for the Blind, Yorktown Heights, NY. Contact Bev Klayman 800/942-0149 or e-mail <admissions@guidingeyes.org>

October 24-25, 2002 – Arizona AER Fall Conference, Prescott, AZ. Contact Penny Rosenblum, 520/621-1223, e-mail <rosenblu@u.arizona.edu> or website at www.ed.arizona.edu/azaer

October 24-25, 2002 – Wisconsin AER Conference, Milwaukee, WI. Contact Trudy Stachowiak, 715/985-2020

October 25, 2002 – Traumatic Brain Injury Conference, sponsored by DC/MD AER Chapter and the Maryland State Steering Committee for Programs for the Blind and Visually Impaired, Annapolis, MD. Contact: Linda Palo 301/408-5515

March 13-15, 2003 – Conference sponsored by DC/MD AER Chapter and the Maryland State Steering Committee for Programs for the Blind and Visually Impaired, Ocean City, MD. Contact: Linda Palo 301/408-5515 ■



Yesterday's News by Gregory Goodrich

It is probable that AER's membership represents only a fraction of the rehabilitation and education professionals working in the field and the topic of how to attract more members to AER is a frequent one at AER Chapter, Division, and National meetings. One strategy, used over 50 years ago, was to welcome new people to the field. The American Foundation for the Blind led the way in doing this and their strategy was a simple one. They gave a one year subscription to the *Outlook for the Blind and Teachers Forum* (now the *Journal of Visual Impairment and Blindness*) to every new professional entering the field. Not only did this serve to connect each new person to the field through the articles, news, and notices published that year, but it gave them information about upcoming events. It was also, I'm sure, appreciated by each new person in the field and provided them with a sense of being in a community of people with similar interest. Perhaps AER and AFB should consider reinventing this gift subscription and hopefully expanding our "community."

In the Editor's letter, it was noted that new people to the field often "are too hasty in arriving at the conclusion that 'nothing has been done in the past.' Too often, 'old timers' in

the field are inclined to take the attitude that "there is not much to learn; you can pick it up as you go along." The Editor further wrote; "Because those in work for the blind are a small group, widely scattered, it takes quite a long time to get about to the various centers of work and learning, and new people sometimes become old people without ever entering the great libraries of some of the outstanding educational institutions which specialize in research." I feel a strong argument could be made today that too many "new people" and "old people" are still much too hasty in reaching the conclusions the Editor warned us against some 50 years ago. One solution suggested was to consider the four stages through which people entering the field may pass.

"First, you think that blindness is a simple problem which common sense can handle, and perhaps that too much is made of it by workers for the blind."

"In the second stage, you think the problem is extremely difficult, and that what has been done in the past amounts to nothing at all. In this stage, you are apt to think, 'I am the only person helping the blind.'"

"In the third stage, you think, 'The whole thing is hopeless, and there is no use trying to do anything about it.' (All too often, people remain in this stage, not only those who leave the field, but some who stay in it.)"

"There is a fourth, happy, stage, that which the *Outlook* hopes each person entering the field this year will reach. This is the realization of the first four stages, and yet a kind of return to the first stage, a kind of 'second first stage,' like a second wind, a second childhood, or a second sense of humor. Those who arrive at the 'second first stage' think of the problem of blindness as something which common sense and experience can handle, realize that the problem is large, know that others who have worked on it before and are working on it now, believe it can be managed, and try to do a piece of work sufficient to each day."

As I read this I paused to wonder what stage I was in, or have I gotten stuck in one or another stage? And I also wondered what we, we being AER, should do to be more welcoming of new people

(continued on page 11)

(continued from page 10)

entering the field? And how should we help each other through these stages? Do we welcome each new person and give them a gift of mem-

bership in our community? And, are we supported by others in our journey through our career? If the answer to these questions is "sometimes" or "no" then we

have a great opportunity to make AER a more welcoming organization and an opportunity to expand our community. ■

The Top Resources to be on Display in Toronto to Complete Your Tapestry

Where can professionals try out the latest resources in the field this summer? In Toronto, of course, at AER 2002 International Conference, July 17-21. The conference theme, *Weaving A Tapestry of Services*, certainly encompasses the products, services and resources on display in the AER exhibit hall. Attendees will be able to enjoy some "one stop shopping," while learning about some of the newest, cutting-edge services available in the field. The following exhibitors will be present and ready to answer all your questions on their products and services. Be sure to stop by each booth and gather as much information as possible!

- Academy for Certification of Vision Rehabilitation and Education Professionals
- Access Ingenuity
- Access USA
- American Foundation for the Blind
- AER Marketplace
- Ai Squared
- American Printing House for the Blind
- Ambutech
- Aroga Technologies
- Aurora Ministries

- Betacom
- Braille Novel T's
- Carroll Center for the Blind
- Columbia Lighthouse for the Blind
- Council of Schools for the Blind
- Clarity Solutions
- CNIB
- Duxbury
- Enabling Technologies
- Envision
- Eschenbach
- Freedom Scientific
- Frontier Computing
- Goodwin Manufacturing Corporation
- Guide Dogs Foundation for the Blind
- Guiding Eyes for the Blind
- Henter Math, LLC
- Innoventions, Inc.
- Leader Dogs for the Blind
- LS&S Group
- LVRC
- Maryland School for the Blind
- Maxi Aids
- Microcomputer Science Centre
- National Braille Press
- National Federation for the Blind
- Nurion-Raycal
- Optelec
- Perkins School for the Blind

- Pulsedata Humanware
- Recording for the Blind & Dyslexic
- RNIB
- RRTC on Blindness and Low Vision
- Tactile Vision, Inc.
- Telesensory
- Texas School for the Blind
- The Seeing Eye, Inc.
- The Hadley School for the Blind
- ViewPlus Technologies
- Vision Associates
- VisuAide
- Wikki Stix

The AER conference tapestry would not be complete without a full exhibit hall. The support and information these organizations and companies provide allows attendees to create a useful tapestry to be cherished for years to come.

To register for the 2002 AER International Conference in Toronto, please contact the AER office at 877/492-2708 for a full brochure, or download the registration form from the AER web site at www.aerbvi.org. ■

Across the Spectrum

An information exchange focusing
on literature which references
blindness or low vision

**The following items were
submitted by:** Greg Goodrich

Journal Reference: *Nurse
Practitioner*, Vol. 27, No. 3,
Mar. 2002, pp. 15-26

Article: "Achieve New Vision
Screening Objectives"

Author: C. Halle

Reprint Requests to: C. Halle,
US Army, Madigan Army Medi-
cal Center, Ft. Lewis, WA, USA

Journal Reference: *Journal
of Gerontology Psychological
Sciences and Social Sciences*,
Vol. 57, No. 3, May 2002, pp.
S177-S186

Article: "Informal Caregiving
for Diabetes and Diabetic Com-
plications Among Elderly
Americans"

Authors: KM Langa, S Vijan,
RA Hayward, ME Chernew, CS
Blaum, MU Kabeto, DR Weir,
SJ Katz, RJ Willis, AM Fen-
drick

Reprint Requests to: KM
Langa, Division of General
Medicine, Department of Medi-
cine, University of Michigan,
Ann Arbor, MI, USA

Journal Reference: *British
Journal of Ophthalmology*, Vol.
86, No. 5, May 2002, pp. 498-
504

Article: "Blindness and Visual
Impairment in the Americas
and the Caribbean"

Authors: B Munoz, SK West

Reprint Requests to: Dana
Center, Wilmer Eye Institute,
Johns Hopkins University, Bal-
timore, MD

Journal Reference: *Archives
of Physical Medicine and Re-
habilitation*, Vol. 83, No. 4, Apr.
2002, pp. 469-477

Article: "Vision, Attention, and
Self-Reported Driving Behav-
iors in Community-Dwelling
Stroke Survivors"

Authors: GD Fisk, C Owsley,
M Mennemeier

Reprint Requests to: Depart-
ment of Psychology and Soci-
ology, Georgia Southwestern
State University, 800 Wheatley
Street, Americus, GA 31709,
USA; <gdf@canes.gsw.edu>

Journal Reference: *Scandi-
navian Audiology*, Vol. 30., No.
4, 2001, pp. 255-263

Article: "Vision and Hearing in
Old Age"

Authors: B Bergman, U Ro-
senhall

Reprint Requests to: Depart-
ment of Ophthalmology, Insti-
tute of Clinical Neuroscience,
Gothenburg University, Swe-
den; <birgitta.bergman@oft.gu.
se>

Journal Reference: *Diabetic
Medicine*, Vol. 17, No. 1, Jan.
2002, pp. 27-34

Article: "What is the Preva-
lence of Visual Impairment in
the General and Diabetic
Populations: Are There Ethnic

and Gender Differences?"

Authors: LM Hayward, ML
Burden, AC Burden, H Black-
ledge, NT Raymond, JL Botha,
WS Karwatowski, T Duke, YF
Chang

Reprint Requests to: Diabe-
tes Care Unit, Leicester Gen-
eral Hospital, UK

Journal Reference: *Pediatric
Neurology*, Vol. 26, No. 2, Feb.
2002, pp. 143-145

Article: "Pediatric Phantom Vi-
sion (Charles Bonner Syn-
drome)"

Authors: LD Mewasingh, C
Kornreich, F Christiaens, C
Christophe, B Dan

Reprint Requests to: Neurol-
ogy Department, University
Children's Hospital Queen Fa-
biola, Free University of Brus-
sels, Brussels, Belgium

Journal Reference: *Acta
Ophthalmology Scandinavia*,
Vol. 80, No. 1, Feb. 2002, pp.
44-46

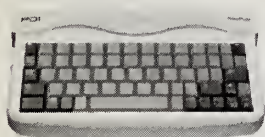
Article: "The Frequency of
Amolyopia Among Visually Im-
paired Persons"

Authors: P Jakobsson, G
Kvarnstrom, M Abrahamsson,
E Bjernbrink-Hornblad, B
Sunnqvist

Reprint Requests to: Depart-
ment of Ophthalmology, Uni-
versity Hospital, Linkoping,
Sweden; <peter.
jakobsson@eye.liu.se>



Innovative choices for people with visual impairments



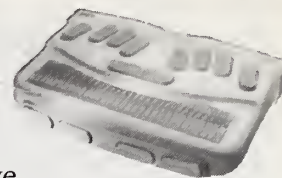
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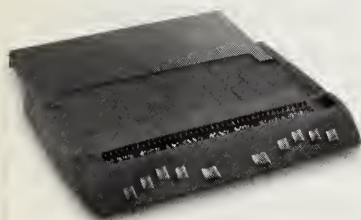
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- Compatible with mainstream technology

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Division Docket

Division 3 Multiple Disabilities and Deafblind

Division 3 members, it's time to nominate new division officers who will begin their term at the International Conference in July. I look forward to seeing you in Toronto for our business meeting and the Awards Reception.

Nominations for Division 3 officers may be sent to: Marianne Riggio at <marianne.riggio@perkins.org> or to Carolyn Monaco at <carolyn.monaco@sympatico.ca> Please share with them the names of anyone you think would serve the division well. The offices to be filled are Chair-elect and Secretary-Treasurer.

-Tom Miller, Chair, Division 3

Division 8 Infant Preschool

Division 8 officers have been very busy this year with many projects in the works or completed. Very soon after the International Conference of July 2000, all Division 8 members were mailed a questionnaire. The information gathered was used to develop a directory of members that are willing to be mentors for others in our field. The directory was mailed to all interested Division 8 members.

The officers, with the help of Susan Greer, a talented Division 8 member, created a beautiful, informational brochure that is sent to all new members and available to all Division 8 members for distribution at conferences.

Division 8 officers have been working hard to make sure we have interesting and informative articles for each issue of the *Newspatch*, and recently mailed a flyer announcing the upcoming election of officers, awards, scholarships and con-

tests to be held during the International Conference in Toronto.

Officers recently met to study the applications that were submitted by people interested in presenting at our next International Conference. The officers made recommendations for speakers based on the interests of our division members. The officers have developed what we hope will be a very popular poster session that will generate a lot of attention in Toronto. We will be selling some interesting items at the market place during the Toronto conference as well.

And, finally, Division 8 officers have been working closely with conference planners in Logan, Utah to help sponsor a web-based conference on June 12, 2002. Dr. Lea Hyvarinen will be presenting. It's been an exciting and productive two years. Hope you will join us as we continue to promote and improve early intervention services for children with visual impairments. ■

(continued from 1)

There are only 6,700 full-time equivalent Teachers of the Visually Impaired (including Teachers of the Deaf-Blind) to serve the approximately 93,600 students in need of special education services — many more students may yet be unidentified.

Experts in blindness agree that the national average teacher-to-student ratio of 1 to 14 should be lowered to 1 to 8, meaning that 5,000 additional teachers are needed immediately. Unfortunately, fewer than 250 new teachers are being prepared each year, including both bachelors and masters graduates.

So, what are you doing to help save specialized services for children and adults who are blind or visually impaired? Through a broad-based effort to recruit and prepare new professionals, AER, with your help and that of our other partners, will be embarking on an initiative to address the profound shortage of personnel in our field. More to come soon! ■



ACVREP Update

By Eileen Siffermann, COMS, President, Academy for Certification of Vision Rehabilitation and Education Professionals

The Nominations Committee of the Academy for Certification of Vision Rehabilitation & Education Professionals (ACVREP) Board of Directors is seeking nominations for positions on the ACVREP Board. These positions will be open **January 1, 2003**. The ACVREP Board elects each position by ballot. For consideration, a completed nomination packet must be received no later than August 20, 2002.

ACVREP Current Board Openings

The Board openings are for four (4) director positions on the ACVREP Board of Directors. Board members normally serve three-year terms and may be elected to a second three-year term. The open positions for the year 2003 must be filled by two

ACVREP certificants, and two non-certificants. Non-certificants nominees should be individuals who are blind or visually impaired and are not vision professionals, and eye care professionals who shall be an ophthalmologist or optometrist.

Conflict of Interest Policy

ACVREP Officers, Directors, committee chairpersons and committee members, staff and designated representative shall undertake full disclosure of any actual, apparent or potential conflict of interest.

The ACVREP is an organization that values difference in background, perspective, beliefs, and traditions, in order to assist a diverse constituency in offering exemplary and viable services. ACVREP does not discriminate against any individual because of

race, ethnicity, gender, age, creed, disability, or national origin.

All expenses for attendance at official meetings are reimbursed.

Completed nomination packets must be received no later than August 20, 2002 to be considered. All nominations and nominees will be notified upon receipt of the nomination packet submitted. Notification of the results of the selection will be made September 10, 2002. Elections will be conducted at the annual meeting of the Board of Directors on September 21, 2002.

To request the 2002 Nomination Application Form, contact: ACVREP Nominations Committee, PO Box 91047, Tucson, AZ 85752-1047 or call 520-887-6816■



AERwaves

*By Mark Richert
Executive Director*

Have you ever had one of those days where you couldn't win for losing? Does the career you have chosen from time to time feel more like the kind of job Johnny Paycheck sang about "Take This Job and Shove It!" Sometimes no matter which way we turn, no matter what course of action we choose on a given day, the bottom falls out or we

get bonked on the head. That's life. Some folks will give you perfectly useless advice to cope with these situations — like "just hold on" or "ride out the storm." Well, I'm not going to offer that advice. In fact, I'd advise you to just let go sometimes and hold on at other times. Maybe after you read the following item that was passed my way via the Internet, perhaps you'll see what I mean. I don't know about you, but I can sure relate to this guy now and then...

The following is an accident report, which was printed in the newsletter of the British equivalent of the Workers' Compensation Board:

Dear Sir:

I am writing in response to your request for additional information in Block #3 of the accident report form. I put "Poor Planning" as the cause of my accident. You asked for a fuller explanation and I trust the following details will be sufficient.

(continued on 16)

(continued from 15)

I am a bricklayer by trade. On the day of the accident, I was working alone on the roof of a new six-story building. When I completed my work, I found I had some bricks left over which, when weighed later, were found to be slightly in excess of 500 lbs. Rather than carry the bricks down by hand, I decided to lower them in a barrel by using a pulley which was attached to the side of the building at the sixth floor. Securing the rope at ground level, I went up to the roof, swung the barrel out and loaded the bricks into it. Then I went down and untied the rope, holding it tightly to insure a slow descent of the bricks.

You will note in block #11 of the accident report form that my weight is 135 lbs. Due to my surprise at being jerked off the ground so suddenly, I lost my presence of mind and forgot to let go of the rope. Needless to say, I proceeded at a rapid rate up the side of the building. In the vicinity of the third floor, I met the barrel, which was now proceed-

ing downward at an equally impressive speed. This explains the fractured skull, minor abrasions and the broken collarbone, as listed in Section 3 of the accident report form.

Slowed only slightly, I continued my rapid ascent, not stopping until the fingers of my right hand were two knuckles deep into the pulley.

Fortunately, by this time I had regained my presence of mind and was able to hold tightly to the rope, in spite of the excruciating pain I was now beginning to experience. At approximately the same time however, the barrel of bricks hit the ground and the bottom fell out of the barrel. Now devoid of all but eight of the bricks, the barrel weighed approximately 50 lbs. I refer you again to my weight.

As you might imagine, I began a rapid descent down the side of the building. In the vicinity of the third floor, I met the barrel coming up. This accounts for the two fractured ankles, broken tooth and severe lacerations of my legs and lower body.

Here my luck began to change slightly. The encounter with the barrel seemed to slow me enough to lessen my injuries when I fell into the pile of bricks and fortunately only three vertebrae were cracked.

I am sorry to report however, as I lay there on the pile of bricks in pain, unable to move, I again lost my composure and presence of mind and let go of the rope. I lay there watching the empty barrel begin its journey back down to me. This explains the two broken legs.

This explains why I cited "poor planning" as the cause of the accident.

Poor guy. Would that I could stop laughing at him so that I might feel sympathy for him. And would that I might laugh at myself more and have the presence of mind to know when to let go and when to hold on. I bet there's at least one or two of you out there who can relate. Take care. ■



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AER Report

Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired

Focusing on the Future – New AER President and Board

On July 21, 2002, Elaine Sveen became President of AER during the International Conference in Toronto, Canada. During her Inaugural Address, Elaine shared her vision for the association for the next biennium, and outlined four areas in which the association will focus its attention:

- Pre-service – The recruitment and education of the professionals in the field.
- In-service – Continuing education opportunities and support
- Payment for Service – Continued support of legislation for Medicare coverage of services
- Protection of Services – Strengthening of advocacy to protect services

The AER Board, along with AER staff, will be dedicated to developing new opportunities for AER members in these areas, growing and strengthening existing products and programs, and continuing to collaborate with other organizations on issues that advance AER's mission.

In her address, Elaine introduced and welcomed the new

AER Board of Directors for the 2002-2004 biennium.

Officers

President: Elaine Sveen, Faribault, MN

President-elect: Gregory Goodrich, Palo Alto, CA

Secretary: Tanni Anthony, Denver, CO

Treasurer: Nora Griffin-Shirley, Lubbock, TX

Past President: Billy Brookshire, Austin, TX

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District 2 – Martha Simmons, Zachery, LA

District 3 – Julie Hapeman, Milwaukee, WI

District 4 – Margaret Cleary, Sudbury, MA

District 5 – Carol Allman, Tallahassee, FL

District 6 – Dona Sauerburger, Gambrills, MD

Canadian Representative

Wendy Nichols, Brampton, ON

Council of Chapter Presidents Representative

Sandra Ruconich, Salt Lake City, UT

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The AER Mission:

To develop and promote professional excellence through support of those who provide services to people with visual impairments.

(Continued on page 3)

From the President

Here is a question for AER members:

Can you think of one word to add to the following that describes the important work of AER?

- Pre-
- In-
- Payment of
- Protection of

And while you are thinking, I offer you greetings from your new president! I just returned from Toronto where more than 1,000 attendees were witness to an overwhelming number of continuing education opportunities, discussions about "hot topics" in our field, exhibits of the latest products on the market, and awards given to outstanding contributors in our field.

The International Conference is a reminder of how much we have in common as AER members regardless of the age group we serve, where we live, or our professional specialties. We are bound together because our dreams for the future are based on the fact we believe in the value of blind/visually impaired individuals, and as members, we can make a difference in their lives.

Imagine for a moment that you are at your kitchen table with the newspaper and the headlines read (Fill in the blanks to find the answer to the one word):

- Pre-_____ – Universities worry that employment will not be available for graduates with training in orientation and mobility, rehabilitation counseling/teaching, or teaching the visually impaired. All vacant positions have been filled with highly qualified individuals.
- In-_____ – Professionals working with the blind decline expense free opportunities for continuing education, even in exotic places such as Hawaii, as they are overwhelmed with choices for advancement of their knowledge, skills, and abilities.
- Payment of _____ – Funding is returned from programs serving the blind as all financial needs for services are met regardless of age or disability.
- Protection of _____ – The AER Board of Directors lays-off full time lobbyist as no work is available. A full continuum/range of services is in place that meets the specific training needs of the blind.

These headlines may not be in print in tomorrow's newspaper, however, they provide a vision of possibilities. As I ponder the future, these four broad areas of Pre-SERVICE, In-SERVICE, Payment of SERVICE, and Protection of SERVICE encompass our common interests and create a way to organize



Elaine Sveen
AER President, 2002-2004

AER's work over the next two years. I am quite certain that you as AER members can think of examples of high priority needs in your work that fit within these areas. As your president, armed with a gavel and your support, I know we can make progress towards our dreams to enhance the lives of those we serve.

Any thoughts? Did you figure out the one word that describes the work of AER? Want to volunteer for service? Please feel free to let me know. ■

Elaine Sveen – Brief Bio

- Years of Service: 27
- Location of Service: Texas, Virginia, and Minnesota
- Degrees: BS from University of Texas at Austin; Master in Educational Administration from College of William and Mary; ES from Minnesota State University at Mankato
- Work History: Public schools, rehabilitation agency, and special school
- Past President of NAPVI

(Continued from page 1)

Council of Division Chairs Representatives

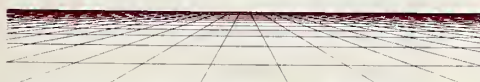
Tom Miller, Watertown, MA
James "Blue" Bickford, Portland, OR
Tim Hindman, Bainbridge Island, WA
Grace Ambrose, Wappingers Falls, NY

Elaine and the new Board encourage AER members to actively participate in association activities. In addition, they invite members to share suggestions, recommendations, and opinions on association programs and services. ■



Already "earring up" for the 2004 International Conference in Orlando, now Past President Billy Brookshire joins Executive Director Mark Richert in applauding AER President Elaine Sveen at the conclusion of her inaugural remarks.

Across the Spectrum



An information exchange focusing on literature which references blindness or low vision

The following items were submitted by: Greg Goodrich

Journal Reference: *Ophthalmology*, Vol. 109, No. 6, June 2002, pp. 1092-1097

Article: "Five-Year Incidence of Age-Related Maculopathy Lesions: The Blue Mountains Eye Study"

Authors: P. Mitchell, JJ Wang, S. Foran, W. Smith

Reprint Requests to: Department of Ophthalmology and the Save Sight and Westmead

Millennium Institutes, University of Sydney, Westmead, Australia

Journal Reference: *American Journal of Ophthalmology*, Vol. 133, No. 5, pp. 686-692

Article: "Self-Reported Visual Dysfunction In Multiple Sclerosis: New Data from the VFQ-25 and Development of an MS-Specific Vision Questionnaire"

Authors: SL Ma, JA Shea, SL Galetta, DA Jacobs, CE Markowitz, MG Maguire, LJ Balcer

Reprint Requests to: Department of Neurology, University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine, Philadelphia, PA, USA

Journal Reference: *Arch Ophthalmol*, Vol. 120, No. 6, June 2002, pp. 756-760

Article: "Ocular Malingering: A Surprising Visual Acuity Test"

Authors: MH Graf, J. Roesen

Reprint Requests to: michael.h.graef@augen.med.uni-giessen.de

Journal Reference: *Arch Ophthalmol*, Vol. 120, No. 6, 2002, pp. 774-780

Article: "How Does Visual Impairment Affect Performance on Tasks of Everyday Life? The SEE Project. Salisbury Eye Evaluation"

Authors: S.K. West, G.S. Rubin, A.T. Broman, B. Munoz, K. Bandeen-Roche, K. Turano

Reprint Requests to: Dana Center for Preventive Ophthalmology, Wilmer Eye Institute, The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Baltimore, MD 21287, USA; shwst@jhmi.edu ■

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AER Report provides for the publication of materials that may represent divergent ideas, judgments, and opinions.

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President-elect: Gregory Goodrich

Secretary: Tanni Anthony

Treasurer: Nora Griffin-Shirley

Past President: Billy Brookshire

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Wendy Nichols

CDC Representatives:

Grace Ambrose

James "Blue" Bickford

Tim Hindman

Tom Miller

CCP Representative:

Sandra Ruconich

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Executive Assistant

Vince Martino, COMS, Canadian AER
Coordinator

Felecia Sharpe, Membership Assistant

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

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Malorie Ross

Arkansas

Sandy G Nehus

Pam S Raspberry

Darlina Smith

Arizona

Leslie L Anderson

DC/Maryland

Maureen Bisesi

Rosemary Janiszewski

Kathleen Johnston

Bill Murphy

England

Alison Harding

Pete Lucas

Graham Willetts

Florida

Kat Newland

Susan G Sturrock

Lynne Winkler

Germany

Christa Berger

Iowa

Martha R Benda

Illinois

Julie A Adams

Kansas

Michael J Epp

Michigan

Nancy Beukema

Nancy Jo Blucher

Kathrine A Clauson

John McElheron

Gerald G Purdy

Lyn M Wiley

Minnesota

Patricia A Brandstaetter

Jordana M Engebretsen

Missouri

David Arnold

James F. Baker

Carol A Biggs

Susan A Garner

New Jersey

Dennis Cruz

Colleen Dougherty

Marilyn D Winograd

Nebraska

Joni L Teter

Northern California

Ty McClellan

Sarah A McIntyre

Heather G Platt

New York

Josephine De Fini

Shelley Falitico

Regina Neubert

Liz Saleh

Linda A Travis

Linda M Yost

Ohio

Susan R Garber

Melissa R Moorhead

Ontario

Ann Acheson

Darleen Bogart

Cayt Campbell

Ines Di Tullio

Vince Giraldi

Phyllis Landon

Cathy Moore

Dave R Morgan

Donna Palmer

Yasmin Safir

Janet Soloduk

Karen Taylor

Susan Vollmar

Rebecca Weber

Pennsylvania/Delaware

Bernice J Berger

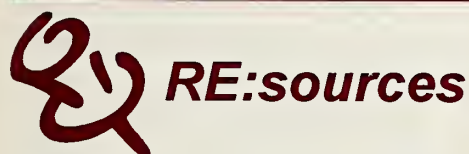
Joy A Boyer

Continued on page 7

Positioning for Success, AER Bolsters Commitment to Professional Development

Indicative of AER's commitment to professional development for its members and others in the fields of education and rehabilitation is the new "premier partnership" between the Hadley School for the Blind and AER. AER has long had a mission to support professional development and Hadley has the ability to complement that mission in delivery of continuing education services. "This partnership will allow AER to develop and deliver top-quality professional development opportunities across a broad spectrum of educational activities," according to AER Past President Billy Brookshire and Hadley President Michael Bina, who were instrumental in developing the new partnership.

Adding further emphasis to AER's commitment is a re-alignment of AER staff responsibilities. Jackie Fairbarns will have first responsibility for development, implementation and supervision of AER education initiatives in all possible venues, and will work closely with Hadley staff to provide maximum access and benefit for AER members. ■



From: RRTC on Blindness and Low Vision

New publication *"Consumer and Employer Strategies for Overcoming Employment Barriers,"* available from the RRTC on Blindness and Low Vision, Mississippi State University. Available in print, on cassette and diskette for \$20 per copy. Contact Kelly Schaefer at 662/325-1363 or e-mail schaefer@ra.msstate.edu.

From: University of Arkansas

27th IRI Document *"Effective Strategies for Improving Employment Outcomes for People With Chronic Kidney Disease,"* available from the University of Arkansas, at \$15 for each copy. For more information, contact Regional Rehabilitation Continuing Education Center, University

of Arkansas, PO Box 1358, 105 Reserve, Bldg. 35, Hot Springs, AR 71902; Telephone 501/623-7700 or FAX 501/624-6250.

From: AFB Press

Two recently revised and updated publications from the AFB Press: *"When You Have a Visually Impaired Student in Your Classroom: A Guide for Teachers,"* Susan J. Spungin, Contributing Editor with contributors Donna McNear and Iris Torres, and *"Making Life More Livable: Simple Adaptations for Living at Home After Vision Loss,"* revised by Maureen A. Duffy. Order on line at the American Foundation for the Blind Bookstore (www.afb.org/store) or contact AFB at 11 Penn Plaza, Suite 300, New York, NY 10001.

From: Portland State University

Portland State University recently announced the appointment of Dr. James O. Bickford as Coordinator the program to prepare

teachers for children with visual impairments. The program at Portland State University was established in 1974 and in recent years saw a dramatic decline in enrollment as federal funds diminished. During the past year and a half the university deliberated about its continuance. With the strong support of the department and the Graduate School of Education, the university has committed hard money to the continuance of the program through a distance-learning format, and towards the establishment of an Orientation and Mobility program to begin in the summer of 2003. Additionally, the program has been admitted to the Western Regional Graduate Program (WRGP) that allows a waiver of out-of-state tuition for students in any one of the 14 states belonging to the consortium. For further information, contact James "Blue" Bickford at 503/725-5495 or bickford@pdx.edu. ■

AER Members Adopt 18 Resolutions at the Toronto International Conference

The AER Resolutions Committee worked long hours during the International Conference in Toronto. The Committee, chaired by Wendy David, collected proposed resolutions from members, refined the wording of the resolutions, and presented the final 18 resolutions to the AER membership at the Inaugural Brunch. Following is a synopsis of the adopted resolutions:

AER Resolution 2002-01 – Approved the partnership between AER and the Hadley School for the Blind with the intention of providing superior coursework, curricula and instruction for the profession of education and rehabilitation of people who are blind or visually impaired.

AER Resolution 2002-02 – AER's endorsement of and active promotion of the Instructional Materials Accessibility Act (IMAA) and encouragement of AER's divisions, chapters and individual members to aggressively advocate the passage of the IMAA in Congress.

AER Resolution 2002-03 – AER's endorsement of the recommendations of the Choices for Children initiative, whose major recommendations support the reauthorization of IDEA, and authorization of AER's Executive Director to prepare, promote, and join

with others in the blindness field to support such legislative language as may be necessary to secure changes in IDEA to reflect the CfC recommendations.

AER Resolution 2002-04 – Mandates the accessibility of AER headquarters, chapter and division communications, conferences, elections, and office operations for all AER members.

AER Resolution 2002-05 – Commends the Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board (Access Board) for attending carefully to the unique access needs of persons with vision impairments in the preparation of Draft Guidelines for Accessible Public Rights-of-Way; urges the U.S. Federal Highway Administration to bring the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices into harmony with the Draft Guidelines; urges the Transportation Association of Canada to incorporate the recommendations of the Canadian National Committee on Accessible Pedestrian Signals into the Canadian Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices, and urges the Canadian Standards Association to consider harmonizing the Canadian standards with the recommendations in the U.S. Draft Guidelines for Accessible Public Rights-of-Way.

AER Resolution 2002-06 – AER advocate for increased funding for IDEA, increased funding for personnel preparation programs dedicated specifically to training teachers in the education of learners with deafblindness, and for sufficient number of programs to meet the national needs.

AER Resolution 2002-07 – AER's affirmation that certified orientation and mobility specialists (COMS), in consultation with the consumer, and when appropriate with the consumer's family, are recognized as the designated sole professionals responsible for making determinations regarding the environments in which O&M services are provided, and whether individual or group lessons are appropriate for teaching specific skills in accordance with individual need and safety.

AER Resolution 2002-08 – AER's affirmation that COMS, in consultation with the consumer, and when appropriate with the consumer's family, is the sole professional designated to determine when occlusion of available vision, instruction in the use of available vision, or a combination thereof, are effective strategies in the provision of O&M instruction.

(Continued on page 7)

visual impairments that have additional disabilities, including deafblindness, and AER's resolve to maximize professional development, conference programming, advocacy and other related activities to more thoroughly address the unique educational and rehabilitative needs of children and adults who are deafblind or who have other disabilities in addition to blindness.

AER Resolution 2002-10 – AER's unequivocal support and regard for our professional colleagues who are Certified Orientation and Mobility Specialists and who are blind or visually impaired.

AER Resolution 2002-11 – AER's commitment of volunteer and staff time and resources to increasing the number of rehabilitation professional members in AER.

AER Resolution 2002-12 – AER urges the U.S. Federal Highway Administration and Transport Canada to establish regulations requiring consistent pushbutton placement at all intersections requiring pushbutton activation of pedestrian timing.

AER Resolution 2002-13 – AER to advocate for paraprofessionals who work with learners who are deafblind to be appropriately trained in those competencies that are essential to meet the needs of the unique population.

AER Resolution 2002-14 – Directs AER work collaboratively with other major national organizations in the blindness and disability fields to protect and promote the availability of specialized services and separate agencies for the blind as part of the upcoming process to reauthorize the Rehabilitation Act, and that such collaboration include efforts to restore the right of consumer choice to be employed in settings where a majority of employees are blind or have other disabilities and competitive wages and benefits are offered.

AER Resolution 2002-15 – AER urges the province of Quebec to reject right-turn-on-red policy for its drivers, thereby helping to ensure the safety and accessibility of its intersections for pedestrians with visual impairments.

AER Resolution 2002-16 – Directs AER to endorse and support the Capuano-Kerry legislation and work for its prompt enactment.

AER Resolution 2002-17 – AER supports the addition of a requirement for walkways from public streets and sidewalks, public transportation stops and passenger loading zones, to primary facility entrances, these walkways to be physically separated from vehicular ways, either by physical barriers or by the provision of raised walkways, and to be interrupted by driveway crossings as necessary.

AER Resolution 2002-18 – Directs AER to support and advocate for the expansion and increased levels of funding for state and multi state deafblind projects. In addition, that AER advocate that states recognize deafblindness as a unique disability requiring teachers with specialized training in deafblindness to meet their educational and rehabilitation needs.

The complete text of the resolutions adopted at the AER International Conference in Toronto may be found on the AER Website (www.aerbvi.org).■

(Continued from page 4)

Pennsylvania/Delaware (Con't.)

Amy K Brown
Eileen G Micklin
Maxine T Scheiman

Rhode Island

Brendan R Foley
Anita Minkin

Tennessee

Cindy Bachofer

Texas

Margarite O Brooks
Kathleen Cruz-Moyett
Fran D Osborn

Utah

Sarah B Gunderson

Washington

Jennifer Hansen

West Virginia

Judith Workman■



AER extends a very special "thank you" to the following members for their generous contributions to AER's Lowenfeld Publication, MacFarland Stipend and General Operating Funds:

Jan R. Carson, Albuquerque, NM, for the MacFarland Stipend Fund

Elizabeth Depiero, Pittsburgh, PA, for the MacFarland Stipend Fund

Maureen Duffy, Elkins Park, PA for the Lowenfeld Publications Fund

Dee Christopher Eason, Portland, OR, for the General Operating Fund

Susan Forster, Dublin, OH, for the General Operating Fund

Catherine A. Gray, Albuquerque, NM, for the General Operating Fund

John J. Kelly, Chester, NY, for the General Operating Fund

Martha H. Kemp, Brooklyn, NY for the Lowenfeld Publications Fund

Alan J. Koenig, Lubbock, TX, for the Lowenfeld Publications Fund

Larry S. Tobin, Woodbury, CT, for the General Operating Fund

Congratulations to the following individuals on being selected recipients of the MacFarland Stipends to assist in defraying the cost of attending the 2002 AER International Conference:

Bob Chessey, Austin, TX

Nancy Druke, MSW, LICSW, Concord, NH

Renee Farrell, COMS, Lewisville, KY

Gretchen Good, Palmerston North, New Zealand

Cathy Johnson, Louisville, KY

Mary Pawlowski, Louisville, KY

Margaret Hagearty Robertson, North Reading, MA

Mary Ann Zelinsky-Cartledge, Newport, ME

Betsy H. Dexheimer, Batavia, NY ■

AER's William and Dorothy Ferrell Scholarship Winners Announced at International Conference

The William and Dorothy Ferrell Scholarships are awarded every two years to two students with visual impairments who are planning careers in blindness education or rehabilitation. From a field of twenty-four applicants, the following were selected for the 2002 awards.

Mary Catherine Rogers is working toward her bachelor's degree in Rehabilitation Services and Counseling at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst and expects to graduate in 2003.

She learned about five years ago that she was going blind and could not continue her work as a Licensed Practical Nurse. While learning to adjust to her new life, she decided to go back to school and eventually earn a master's de-

gree in Rehabilitation Counseling. She looks forward to a rewarding career working with adults who are newly blind and now facing the same adjustments she has had to make.

Linda May Hartley Bolle is a doctoral (Psy.D) candidate, majoring in Clinical Psychology, at the Antioch New England Graduate School in Keene, New Hampshire. She expects to receive her degree in 2005.

Legally blind since birth, she hopes to help others, specifically those with visual impairments, in ways in which she has been helped. She earned a master's in Rehabilitation Teaching from Boston College and her goal is to become a licensed clinical psychologist, specializing in rehabilitation psychology. ■

Special Educational Grants Awarded at AER Business Meeting

Three AER members received educational grants at the AER Business Meeting held at the International Conference in Toronto.

The first was a special educational grant made in honor of Joyce C. Arends of Green Bay, WI. AER was a beneficiary of Ms. Arends estate, and the Board decided to make a special educational grant to a visually impaired AER member. This grant was given to Paula R. Warren, a doctoral candidate at Mississippi State University, where she is pursuing a Ph.D. in Counseling with rehabilitation counseling emphasis.

Two AER members received special scholarship awards in connection with the new premier

partnership between AER and the Hadley School for the Blind. Both recipients are AER members.

Lin Oakerson of Oakton, VA, is a student at the Pennsylvania School of Optometry in Philadelphia, PA, seeking a master's degree with an Orientation and Mobility major. She expects to graduate in 2003.

Gretchen Good, Palmerston, New Zealand, is a Ph.D. candidate (vision rehabilitation) at Massey University in Palmerston. She expects to receive her degree in 2004. ■

Thank You to AER Conference Sponsors and Exhibitors

AER extends a hearty thank you to all the sponsors and exhibitors at the very successful 2002 AER International Conference in Toronto, Canada. Without the support of these companies and organizations, AER's International Conference would not be complete:

2002 Sponsors

Betacom, CNIB, Kurzweil Educational Systems, Inc., Leader Dogs for the Blind, RRTC on Blindness and Low Vision, Talking Signs, and The Seeing Eye, Inc.

2002 Exhibitors

Academy for Certification of Vision Rehabilitation and Education Professionals, Access Ingenuity, Access-USA, Ai Squared, ALVA Access Group, Ambutech, American

Foundation for the Blind, American Printing House for the Blind, Inc., American Thermoform Corporation, Aroga Group, Inc, Aurora Ministries, Benetech Bookshare.org, Betacom Corporation Inc., Braille Authority of North America, Braille Novel T's, Council of Schools for the Blind (COSB) and Overbrook School for the Blind, Clarity Solutions, CNIB, Duxbury Systems, Inc., Enabling Technologies, Envision, Eschenbach, Freedom Scientific Blind/Low Vision Group, Frontier Computing, Goodwin Manufacturing Corp., Guide Dog Foundation for the Blind, Inc., Guiding Eyes for the Blind, GW Micro, Henter Math, LLC, Innoventions, Inc., Kurzweil Education Systems Inc, Leader Dogs for the Blind, LS&S, LLC, MagniSight, Inc.,

Maxi-Aids, Microcomputer Science Centre, National Braille Press Inc., National Center on Low Incidence Disabilities, National Federation of the Blind, National Library Service for the Blind and Visually Handicapped – Library of Congress, NOIR Medical Technologies, Nurion-Raycal, Optelec, Perkins School for the Blind, Pulse Data HumanWare, Recording for the Blind and Dyslexic, RNIB, Tactile Vision Inc., Talking Signs, Telesensory, Texas School for the Blind & Visually Impaired, The Seeing Eye, Inc., The Hadley School for the Blind, ViewPlus Technologies, Vision Associates, VisuAide Inc., and The Wikki Stix Co.

Thank you!!



AER Chapter Round Up

The **Arkansas Chapter of AER** is pleased to announce that **Mary Sloan**, a Rehabilitation Counselor at Division of Services for the Blind, was selected the recipient of the Tom Phifer Award. The Award recognizes Mary for her tireless work to improve and enhance employment opportunities for persons who are blind and visually impaired. In addition, **Yvette McNiece**, an itinerant teacher for the visually impaired with the North Little Rock School District from 1971 to 1985, is

the 2002 Joyce Ogburn Memorial Award recipient. Yvette displayed outstanding service in the field of education of the visually impaired. Arkansas AER also bestowed the J. Max Woolly Award to **Dr. William Jacobson**, Professor of O&M at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. The award was presented in recognition of his contributions in the field of work for people with visual impairments. The Bill Tomlin Scholarship, presented to students to help transition to post second-

dary programs, was given to **Bob Griffin**, a senior from Ashdown High School.

Arkansas AER also announces that Past President, **LeAnn Nannen**, has received the International Joyce Ogburn Award, which was presented in Toronto. This award is extremely special as LeAnn is the daughter of the late Joyce Ogburn for whom the award is named. ■

NOTE to Chapter Leaders: If you are president, immediate past president or president-elect of your chapter and you are not on the Chapter Leaders listserve, please send an e-mail to Jackie Fairbarns so you can be added to the List: <jackief@aerbvi.org>■

AER Welcomes Barbara Sherr to Headquarters Staff

We are pleased to announce that Barbara Sherr has joined the AER Team as Conference Manager/Executive Assistant. Barbara joined us at the 2002 AER International Conference in Toronto, Canada where she had the chance to see for herself how AER works and to meet some of our members.

Barbara, who is legally blind, comes to AER with more than 13 years of experience in the blindness field, having worked for National Industries for the Blind. Positions held were in the administrative and public relations department and include seven years working in the conference and



Barbara Sherr is AER's New Conference Manager/ Executive Assistant

meetings department where she planned board meetings and conferences and administered NIB's Employee of the Year Program.

She moved to Virginia with her family in 1995 when NIB relocated its New Jersey office to the Alexandria area. Barbara is currently active in the Association of Meeting Planners of Northern Virginia and in her community association where she serves as Special Events Coordinator.

Barbara can be contacted via e-mail at <bsherr@aerbvi.org>■

Association Bestows Highest Honors at International Conference in Toronto

At each International Conference, AER members pause to reflect upon and applaud the outstanding efforts of a select group of peers for their outstanding contributions to the field and to the individuals they serve. The Association proudly announces the following recipients of 2002 AER Awards:



Getting the gala evening off to a stirring start, the Ontario Provincial Police bagpipers and Royal Canadian Mounted Police escort the national, state and provincial flags into the Opening assembly.

The Mary K. Bauman Award, which was established to honor an individual who has made significant and outstanding contributions to the education of children and youth who are blind or visually impaired, was bestowed upon Dr. Susan J. Spungin.

Dr. Spungin is well-known internationally as an expert in the education of visually impaired and blind children and youth. She has had an extensive consultative experience, and has been invited to speak to national and international audiences, has published widely, and has coordinated many workshops and meetings. She presently coordinates the American Foundation for the Blind's (AFB) Education as well

as International programs.

Dr. Spungin is an active member in several organizations, including Council of Exceptional Children/Division on Visual Impairments, AER, International Council for Education of Blind People with Visual Impairment, and the World Blind Union.

Her involvement with AER dates back to 1972 and over the years she has served on the Board, as well as serving as President of NYAER; Chair, Division 17; Chair, Bylaws and Structure Committee; and, Chair, Council of Division Chairs.

Dr. Spungin's leadership and work with individuals who are blind and their families, and

professionals who work with them, throughout the world, is truly exemplary.

Dr. Euclid J. Herie, President Emeritus of the Canadian National Institute for the Blind (CNIB), was presented the Ambrose M. Shotwell Memorial Award. This Award was established to honor an individual who has made significant and outstanding contributions to the personal adjustment or rehabilitation of adults who are blind or visually impaired.

Dr. Herie known as a respected leader in the field with a record of translating conceptual ideas into tangible results. During his tenure, Dr. Herie placed CNIB's Library for the Blind in the forefront of special libraries worldwide, by putting in place information systems that proved to be leading-edge technology, allowing blind Canadians easy on-line access to the world's 200,000 English language braille materials, talking books and daily newspapers.

In addition, Dr. Herie also persuaded the Royal Bank of Canada to produce customer statements in braille, a worldwide first. As a result, drug prescriptions, utility bills and other rou-

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(continued from 11)

tine print information are now accessible in braille.

Dr. Herie has served on a variety of organizations' boards, including World Blind Union, where he served as President, Helen Keller International, the Hadley School for the Blind, Canadian Braille Authority, Friends of Libraries for the Blind, and Rehabilitation Research Organization.

The Alfred Allen Award was established to honor professionals who have spent their career in direct service to people with visual impairments, and the 2002 recipient, B. J. LeJeune, exemplifies the character, dedication, insight and sharing that epitomize the spirit of and commitment to direct service to people with visual impairments.

B. J.'s on-going commitment to participation in both "hands-on" and "academic" educational activities is reflected in the outstanding quality and effectiveness of her service de-



Dr. Susan Spungin and Dr. Euclid Herie pause a moment with their awards before joining AER members, friends and family at the Opening Reception.

livery activities. For the past 13 years she has served as an Information and Referral Specialist, providing information and referral consultation services to consumers through a toll-free telephone number, a web site, e-mail, and face-to-face contacts, as Executive Director of CAER Ministries. In addition, for the past 6 years, she has served as a staff member of the RRTC on Blindness.

B. J.'s vast career includes her providing direct services, includ-

ing counseling, individual and group instruction, provision of recreational activities, advocacy, and other support services at Arizona State University, serving as Rehabilitation Counselor to 120 clients at the Virginia Department for the Visually Handicapped, a Geriatric Program Specialist managing and directing instruction of a center- and home-based independent living program, and a Rehabilitation Teacher.

B. J. has been actively involved in our association since joining the AAWB in 1972. She has served in numerous leadership positions at both the state and national level. When AER's certification programs were transferred to the ACVREP in 2000, B. J. remained active in certification issues by serving as Chair of the Ethics Subcommittee of ACVREP, and as a member of the Rehabilitation Teaching Committee. Currently, she is an active member of the Mississippi AER chapter.



B.J. LeJeune (center) receives the 2002 Alfred Allen Award from presenter Elke Wagner (left) as Awards Committee Chair, Dr. Michael Bina, looks on.

Dr. Karen Wolffe has been selected the 2002 recipient of the John H. McAulay Award. This Award honors professionals who have contributed outstanding efforts and achievements leading to the placement of people with visual impairments in productive employment.

Dr. Wolffe has managed a private practice as a career counselor and consultant in Austin, Texas, since 1992. Prior to establishing her own practices, she was a faculty member in the Department of Special Education at the University of Texas in Austin. While teaching at the University of Texas, she also directed the Job Readiness Clinic, an applied learning lab for people with disabilities looking for work and university students studying to become rehabilitation counselors or special education teachers. In addition, Dr. Wolffe works part-time with the American Foundation for the Blind (AFB) as a National Program Associate in Employ-



Dr. Karen Wolffe acknowledges the applause following presentation of the John H. McAulay Award.

ment & Education, teaches a distance education course of the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, and teaches correspondence courses for the Hadley School for the Blind.

Dr. Wolffe has authored and co-authored several books, as well as numerous articles in the *JVIB* and other significant journals based on her work with blind and low vision individuals both in rehabilitation and education settings. Her research and writing interests in-

clude the importance of career education, social skills development, transition issues, employment opportunities for people with disabilities, and literacy in the workplace.

M. Cay Holbrook and Alan J. Koenig, editors of Foundations of Education, Second Edition, were selected to receive the 2002 Warren Bledsoe Award, an award given to a book, journal article, or short work of an outstanding author, group of authors or editor in the field of blindness.

Foundations of Education, Second Edition is a comprehensive compilation of state-of-the-art information that constitutes the essential resource for educating visually impaired students. The theory it presents forms the knowledge base and methodology for teaching visually impaired students in all areas. ■



Dr. Sandra Lewis, Chair of AER's Publications Committee, (back to camera) presents the Warren Bledsoe Award to Dr. Cay Holbrook and Dr. Alan J. Koenig.

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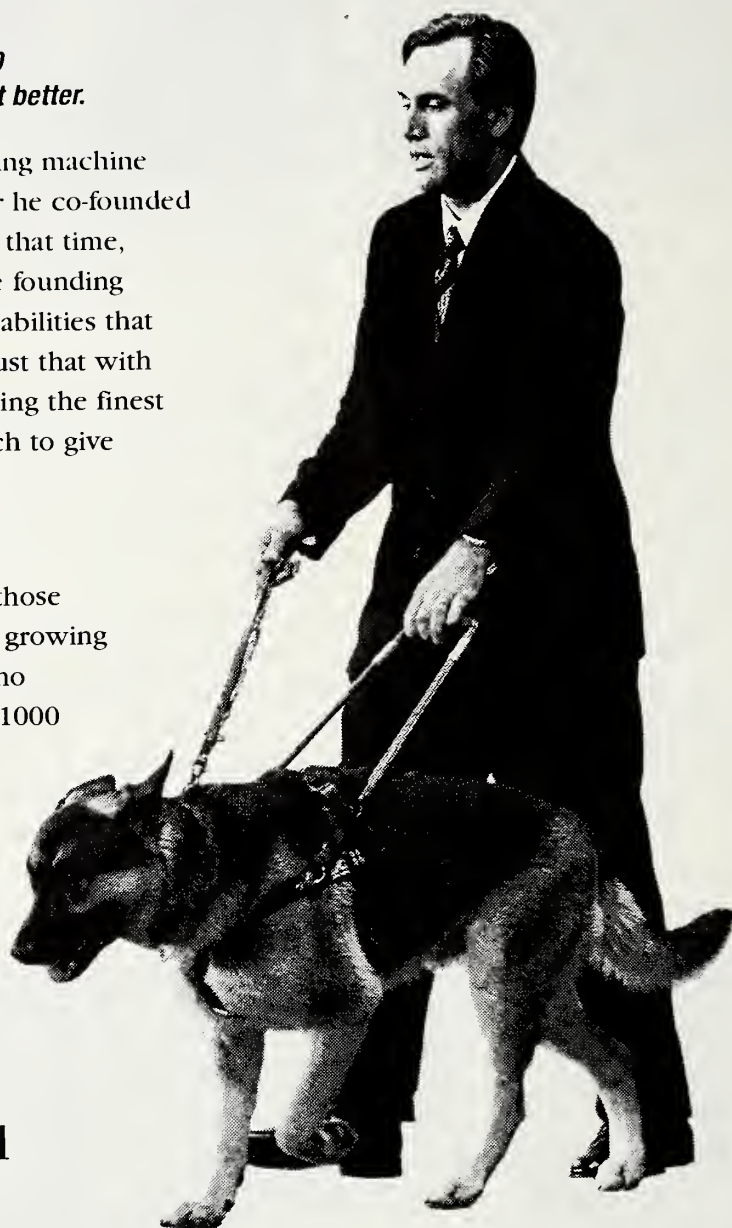
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Yesterday's News *by Gregory Goodrich*

Next year marks the 50th anniversary of the founding of the first of the modern low vision clinics. One of the two clinics to open was at the New York Association for the Blind (now Lighthouse International) in 1953 was under the leadership of Gerald Fonda, M.D. The other opened at the Brooklyn Industrial Home for the Blind (now Helen Keller Services for the Blind) and was headed by George Hellinger, O.D. The approach of a 50th anniversary seems like a fitting excuse for a *Yesterday's News* column. I think this is especially true since these programs lead to perhaps the greatest programmatic change in the history of the blindness field; a change that certainly ranks (and perhaps surpasses in numbers of people served) the introduction of Braille and the development of modern mobility techniques. Both programs were major controversial departures from existing practices in agencies for the Blind and Peter J. Salmon's report "Some Recent Developments at the I.H.B. of Brooklyn" in the March 1953 issue of *The New Outlook for the Blind* (p. 87), remarkably understates both the controversy and the impact of this innovative program.

"Right now, we are getting under way with the development of our program of optical aids. This has caused a bit of a stir.

All of our clients who will come for this service will have first had complete examination by our eye specialist; he will not be responsible for the optical aids program, because ophthalmologists and optometrists just do not work as a team. However, we feel that some, and hopefully many of our clients, classified as blind, who have some remaining vision may be able to get some increase in vision through the use of special lenses, including, but not confined to telescopes. We know that the eye specialist will not have the time to devote to getting the results we have in mind. We know, on the other hand, that some skilled technician is essential to the success of this program. We believe the optometrist is well qualified to do this work. We have, therefore, engaged an optometrist to come to our clinic one afternoon a week as a start; so, we are in earnest regarding this and with good fortune attending, hope to have more to report on this overdue optical aids program in the future. We are working earnestly but cautiously. We have warned our blind friends not to expect miracles. At the same time we firmly believe that this optical aids program will bring beneficial results."

In the last 50 years low vision services have become established as one of the basic pro-

grams in any modern vision rehabilitation service, ophthalmologists and optometrists have shown that they can work as a team, and services are usually provided much more frequently than just one day per week. On the other hand, many clients still expect miracles and while medical research shows promise in creating new treatments and artificial retinas we still cannot produce such miracles. In addition, recent studies strongly suggest that low vision services are underutilized and/or not accessible to those who could benefit from them. In his article Peter Salmon (tongue firmly in his cheek) put in a P.S. which began "We neglected to tell you our newest means of taking up the slack in our idle days....." Fifty years later we could say that we're taking up "the slack in our idle days" by continuing to learn how to improve low vision services, creating equal access to these services for all who can benefit, and providing the highest quality service so that our clients will not just get "some increase in vision" but will get the maximum possible increase in visual function. The news of 50 years ago helps put things in perspective showing how much progress has occurred, as well as how much remains to be done."



All-Awards Reception Honors Outstanding AER Members at 2002 International Conference

By Lisa-Anne Mowerson, 2000-2002 Chair, Council of Division Chairs

At the International Conference in Toronto, AER and its Divisions hosted the first ever All Awards Reception. Traditionally, each division had presented special recognition awards and hosted a division-specific reception. However, this year, with the cooperation of all the divisions, a joint reception was held. All honorees received their awards during the business meetings of each division. At the reception, each honoree was personally recognized and presented to the reception audience. The event was a smashing success! It was the first time all of the award winners from a variety of professions and backgrounds in vision rehabilitation were honored. It was also wonderful to see how many people receive awards and recognition from AER!

The following individuals were honored for their commendable work in the field:

Division 2 – Vocational Rehabilitation Counseling and Employment Services presented Anthony Candela with the AER Division 2 Outstanding Achievement Award.

Division 3 – Multiple Disabilities and Deaf Blind bestowed the Virginia Sewell Award for Outstanding Contributions

to the Field to Millie Smith, and the Samuel Gridley Howe Award for Outstanding Practice to Carolyn Monaco.

Division 4 – Psychosocial Services honored Martha Simmons for her Outstanding Contributions in the Field.

Division 5 – Information and Technology presented the Harvey Lauer Technology Award to Jim Allen.

Division 7 – Low Vision bestowed the Outstanding Contributions in Direct Services to Individuals with Low Vision Award to Robert McGillivray; jointly presented the Outstanding Contributions in Literature and/or Research in Low Vision to Barbara Silverstone, Mary Ann Lang, Bruce Rosenthal, and Eleanor Faye; honored Gregory Goodrich for Outstanding Contributions on Behalf of Division 7 – Low Vision; and presented the Meritorious Award for Lifetime Achievements to Robert Dee Quillman. A Special Award for Outstanding Contributions to Vision Research, Prevention of Blindness and Low Vision was given to Dr. Arnall Patz

Division 8 – Infant and Pre-school awarded Julie Bennes Pierce the Berthold Lowenfeld Award and the Kathryn Max-

field Award for Research to Dr. Lea Hyvarinen. In addition, the Division 8 Pauline Moor Award went to Paula Kurelitz.

Division 9 – Orientation and Mobility presented a number of awards, including the Citation of Excellence for Direct Service to John Clare, the Sandy Kronick Distinguished Award to William Park McClosky, and the Lawrence E. Blaha Memorial Award to Billie Louise Bentzen. In addition a tribute for Advocacy in Environmental Access was jointly awarded to Janet Barlow, Beezy Bentzen, and Lukas Franck.

Division 10 – Education Curriculum presented the Joyce Mae Ogburn Award to LeAnn Nannen and the Curriculum Recognition Award to Debra Newell.

Division 11 – Rehabilitation Teaching honored Maureen Duffy with the Bruce McKenzie Award and presented Barbara Hunt with a Certificate of Merit.

Division 15 – Division on Aging presented its Outstanding Service on Behalf of the Field of Aging to Lorraine Lidoff.

Division 16 – Itinerant Personnel gave the Outstanding

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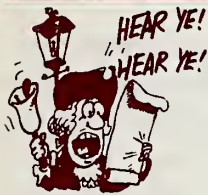
Professional in Direct Service Award to Jennifer Bell and the Dedicated Service Award to Jana Almquist. The Division presented Certificates of Merit to the following members: Jill Brown, Karen Peltier, Anne Spitz, Jennifer Shields, and Nancy Toelle.

Division 17 – Personnel Preparation honored Dr. Susan Spungin with the Josephine Taylor Award.

Congratulations to all these honorees!■



Though the mood is lighthearted, Division honorees are recognized for their serious contributions to their professions. Council of Division Chairs Lisa Anne Mowerson and AER President Billy Brookshire (backs to camera) lead the applause.



Division Docket

Division 11 – Rehabilitation Teaching

Thank you to the members of the Division 11 University Personnel Preparation Committee!

Division 11 extends its sincere thanks to the following members of the University Personnel Preparation Committee who presided over and processed the applications of Florida State University, Northern Illinois University, The University of Arkansas at Little Rock, and Western Michigan University. The dedication and talent of the members listed below ensures that Division 11 can continue to provide the highest-quality education and

training in our university programs.

Barbara Hunt, RTC, Chair
2001-2002
Grace Ambrose, RTC, COMS
Elizabeth Chamberlain, RTC
Elida Gares, RTC
Don Golembiewski, RTC
Bruci Hawkins, RTC, COMS
Vanessa Huang, RTC
Lynne Luxton, RTC
Susan Ponchillia, RTC
Cheryl Richesin, RTC
Janet Silverman, RTC
Diane Storm-Weiss, RTC
Patricia Bussen Smith, RTC
Emery Whitlow, RTC
Felicia Whitney, RTC

Thank you to the members of the Division 11 Rehabilitation Teaching Assistant (RTA) Standards Committee!

Division 11 extends its sincere thanks to the following members of the Rehabilitation

Teaching Assistant (RTA) Standards Committee who spent many hours developing and refining proposed standards for RTAs. On February 15, 2002, the members of Division 11 approved these standards by mail ballot, and the Board of Directors of the Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired approved them on April 18, 2002.

Don Golembiewski, RTC,
Chair 2000-2002
Grace Ambrose, RTC, COMS
Cherie Caprera
Anne Berenice Donald, RTC
Millie Eads, RTC
Diane Storm-Weiss, RTC

Once again, a sincere “*thank you*” to all for your dedication to standards of excellence in the profession of Rehabilitation Teaching.■



Canadian Corner

By Linda Mamer AER Conference Co-Chair and Vince Martino, Canadian AER Coordinator and Conference Co-Chair

Canada says: Thanks for Coming, Eh!

As we look back at these past months, Linda and I want to take a few minutes to reflect and thank everyone who worked, volunteered and attended the 2002 AER International Conference, Toronto, Canada: "AERLOOM: Weaving a Tapestry of Services."

When the final conference attendee figures are tabulated we anticipate them to be between 900 -1000. With everything that has transpired this past year, and with the conference being held outside the US, we had thought numbers would be down slightly from past conferences. To our delight, the numbers may even be up slightly from past conferences.

When we arrived in Ontario in late June, only weeks prior to the start of the conference, Toronto was in the midst of a major garbage strike. This brought a feeling of sickness to our stomachs and it wasn't due to the smell of the garbage. Thursday, July 11 was the turning point for us as city workers were legislated back to work and garbage collection started the next day, cleaning things before the majority of the attendees arrived. Having survived the garbage strike,

we knew that everything would be fine from then on.

So many people came together to make this conference a success. Peggy Madera set a wonderful program into place with her program committee. Wendy Nichols did an outstanding job as chair of the Host committee. Her committee members and volunteers (from all parts of Canada) too many to name individually worked nonstop to stuff conference bags, greet and assist our guests, host the tours, and challenge the attendees with the passport Canada game. You couldn't miss them with their distinctive Canadian print vests. We hope that all enjoyed our Canadian hospitality.

We were thrilled with the opening ceremonies which included The Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), the Ontario Provincial Police and their bagpipers (thanks to Chris Robertson from the AER Ontario Chapter for the arrangements). The Flag ceremony with the recognition of our chapters (thanks to the coordination of Debra Arnold) is such a wonderful tradition of our conferences, sure to be continued. Jim Sanders, president and CEO of the Canadian National Institute for the Blind (CNIB) offered an inspirational message of collabora-

tion within our field and the need to always be looking towards the future.

Thanks to Lorna Frazier-Lindsey for all her work on the registration brochure and the conference program book. To Jackie Fairbarns, Kim and Allison Gettings, Tom Dozier and Chris Capistrant who all worked hard to coordinate the registration desk and many of the conference duties — Thank You!!

We greatly appreciate the effort of the Board of Directors who volunteered their time on the Registration desk, helped with the opening ceremonies, organized the all-awards reception, the newcomers reception and the selection of the conference speakers.

Special thanks to Jay Stiteley and volunteer Graham Wood for their liaison and assistance with the dog guide run and to Bob Brasher, for taking on the role of liaison with the exhibitors. Conference attendees had the opportunity to visit over 65 exhibits from across the US, Canada, and Britain. Thanks also to our conference sponsors: Betacom, Leader Dogs for the Blind, CNIB, Kurzweil Educational Systems, Inc., Telesensory, RRTC on Blindness and Low Vision,

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Finally, during the closing inaugural brunch when outgoing President Billy Brookshire was asked what he is going to do now that his term was over, he enthusiastically stated "I'm going to Disney World." We hope that many of you will join Billy and the Florida Chapter

and new President Elaine Sveen as they prepare for the 2004 Biennial Conference in Orlando, Florida. To the Florida Chapter we wish you all the best.

Audio-tapes of the conference sessions can be purchased

from AVEN – Audio Visual Education Network (refer to the order form and list of tapes on pages 17-19 of this issue), so even if you could not attend, you can still share in the experience.

Thanks again to everyone.



2002-2003 Calendar of Events

2002

October 18, 2002 – Minnesota AER Fall Conference, Featuring Speaker Deborah Chen, Topic: Culture, Diversity and Disability. For More information contact Lynn Neumeister at 612-871-2222.

October 24-25, 2002 – Arizona AER Fall Conference, Prescott, AZ. Contact Penny Rosenblum, 520/621-1223, e-mail <rosenblu@u.arizona.edu> or website at www.ed.arizona.edu/azaer

October 24-25, 2002 – Wisconsin AER Conference, Milwaukee, WI. Contact Trudy Stachowiak, 715/985-2020

October 25, 2002 – Traumatic Brain Injury Conference sponsored by DC/MD AER Chapter and the Maryland State Steering Committee for Programs for the Blind and Visually Im-

paired, Annapolis, MD. Contact: Linda Palo 301/408-5515

November 6-8, 2002 – AER Ohio Chapter Conference, Holiday Inn on the Lane, Columbus, OH. Contact: Judy Cernkovich, Wood County Education services Center, 639 S. Dunbridge Rd., Bowling Green, OH 43402; 419/354-9010 ext. 173; e-mail: wc_jrc@nwoca.org

November 15-17, 2002 – Annual Statewide Conference, National Federation of the Blind of New Hampshire, Holiday Inn, Concord, NH. Contact NFBNH at 603/749-4156.

2003

February 19-22, 2003 – Vision Loss in the 21st Century: Everybody's Business. AFB, Foundation for the Jr. Blind, AER sponsored symposium, Beverly Hilton Hotel, Beverly Hills, CA.

March 13-15, 2003 – Conference sponsored by DC/MD AER Chapter and the Maryland State Steering Committee for Programs for the Blind and Visually Impaired, Ocean City,

MD. Contact: Linda Palo 301/408-5515

March 21-25, 2003 – AER-Lift Training for State Chapter and Division Leaders, Hotel Wyndham, Washington, D.C. Contact Barbara Sherr, AER Conference Manager, e-mail <bsherr@aerbvi.org>

April 14-16, 2003 – 2003 National Conference, Uniting for Employment, RRTC on Blindness and Low Vision, Arizona Golf Resort and Conference Center, Mesa, AZ. Contact Stacy Butler 602/325-3304 or e-mail sle2@ra.msstate.edu

April 24-26, 2003 – Texas AER Conference, Austin, TX. Contact: Edgenie Bellah, TSBVI Outreach, 1100 W. 45th St., Austin, TX 78756; (512)454-8631; E-mail: edgeniebellah@tsbvi.edu

July 25-29, 2003 – AER Advocacy Conference: Advocacy is Everyone's Responsibility, Hotel Wyndham, Washington, DC. Contact Barbara Sherr, AER Conference Manager, e-mail <bsherr@aerbvi.org>



A "Creditable" Conference in Many Ways

"This certainly indicates commitment to professional development," said Janie Humphries, Chair of AER's Continuing Education Committee, as she watched International Conference attendees in line to pick up their continuing education certificates at the International Conference in Toronto.

For the first time, the 2002 AER International Conference offered attendees pre-approved continuing education credit from three of the national certification agencies: Academy for Certification of Vision Education and Rehabilitation Professionals (ACVREP), Commission on Rehabilitation Counselor Certification (CRCC) and the University of Arkansas at Little Rock (UALR).

The comprehensive Conference program was designed by the Conference Committee to offer "something for every-



After completing all their courses, attendees stop to hand in their evaluation forms and receive their continuing education credits.

one" and to include most of the domains and content areas covered by the scopes of practice of the varied professions represented in AER's membership. As a result, the program received approval from ACVREP and CRCC for up to 25 hours and from UALR for up to 2.5 CEUs.

In each course, attendees received an evaluation form for that session. The completed

and signed evaluation forms were then turned in at the registration desk in return for the ACVREP or CRCC credit certificate. Transcripts for UALR credit will be sent directly from the University to the individual. Despite this new, and sometimes a bit confusing, process nearly 300 attendees applied for continuing education credit.

AER President Elaine Sveen summed up by noting that this enthusiastic response is clear evidence that "AER's mission to develop and promote professional excellence is in step with the needs and desires of the membership." ■



Behind the desk, AER's Jackie Fairbarns assists an attendee with the paperwork for ACVREP continuing education credit.

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2002 AER International Conference

July 17-21, 2002 ♦ Toronto, Canada

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The price and availability are subject to change.*

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TOTAL (U.S. Funds) = \$ _____

WEDNESDAY SESSIONS

- AER201 McFarland I Program ...two cassettes
\$22.00
□AER202 McFarland II Program ...two cassettes
\$22.00
□AER203 Opening General Session

THURSDAY SESSIONS

- AER205 Vision Loss & the Family System (*Julia Kleinschmidt*)
□AER206 They Have Some Features...But Are these Children and Adolescents on the Autism Spectrum? What Do We Do? (*Teresa Pawletko*)
□AER207 An Information Earthquake: Results of Three National Surveys (*Mary Ann Siller, Dr. Anne Corn, Dr. Rob Wall, Marie Amerson*)
□AER208 Blueprint for Change Among Specialty Schools for the Blind and Visually Impaired - March to Excellence (*William Murphy, Louis M. Tutt, Eugene McMahon, Dr. Bernadette Kapper, Yvonne Howde, Herbert Miller, Dr. Gaylen Puch*)
□AER209 Envision: New Kits and Curricula for Building Skills with Optical Devices (*Elaine Kitchel, Kristopher Scott*)
□AER210 Teaching the Expanded Core Curriculum: A Time Challenge (*Phil Hatlen, Sharon Sacks, Karen Wolffe*)
□AER211 Preparing Personnel to Serve Infants, Toddlers, and Families (*Deborah Hatton, Dr. Penny Rosenblum*)
□AER212 Capture the Moments- A Picture is Worth More Than a Thousand Words (*Judy Holmes, Ann McKay Bacon*)
□AER213 Improving Collaboration; Improving Employment Outcomes (*John H. Maxson, Dr. Adele Crudden*)
□AER214 Navigating the Future: Advances in Wayfinding Technology (*Doug Baldwin*)
□AER215 Online Professional Development: Interdisciplinary Strategies for Working with Infants Who Have Multiple Disabilities (*Dr. Deborah Chen, Dr. M. Diane Klein*)
□AER217 Teaching Deaf-Blind People to Communicate and Interact with the Public (*Dona Sauerburger*)
□AER218 Literacy Abilities of Older Adults with Low Vision; Comparing Models of Low Vision Reading Training (*Gale Watson; Gregory Goodrich, Richard Ludt*)
□AER220 Community-Based Instruction for Children with Vision Impairments (*Kathie Preece*)
□AER221 Creating Classroom Environments Which Enhance Social Acceptance (*Ann MacCuspie*)
□AER222 Qualitative Approaches To Diversity (*Many Guns, Linda Paula Conroy*)
□AER223 The Future of Randolph-Sheppard: Trends, Issues, and Solutions (*Elton J. Moore, Kevan Worley, Terry Camardelle, Tom Robertson*)
□AER224 Making Visual and Performing Arts Accessible to the Visually Impaired (*Rana McMurray Arnold*)
□AER225 Tell Me More with Video Descriptions—Access to Broad band Learning Resources (*Laurie Harrison, Karen Taylor*)
□AER226 Paradigm Shifts: Rethinking Online Learning (*Kay Ferrell, Nathan Lowell*)
□AER227 See It Their Way (*Jo Russell-Brown*)
□AER228 Let's Put the Fun Back in Fundamentals (*Debra Sewell*)
□AER230 Getting Comfortable with E-Textbooks (*Janina Sajka, George Kerscher*)

- AER231 The Role of the Ear in Promoting Reading Success (*Carol Anne Evans, Annemarie Cooke*)
□AER232 Reach for the Stars, Planning the Future (*Diane Haynes, Jennifer Grisham-Brown*)
□AER233 Tips for Training Low Vision Clients for Near Vision Tasks (*Bryan Gerritsen, Gale Watson, Jim Deremeik*)

FRIDAY SESSIONS

- AER234 AER Town Hall Meeting I
□AER235 AER Town Hall Meeting II
□AER236 Working with Families of Infants Who Have Multiple Disabilities (*Deborah Chen, Dr. Diane Klein*)
□AER237 Driving Issues (*Dr. L. Penny Rosenblum, Dr. Anne Corn, Micheline Descent*)
□AER238 Time For Art: A new handbook and an introduction to Stone Sculpting (*Gail Cawley Showalter, Paul E. Ponchillia*)
□AER239 Bridging the Gap: An Overview of the Development of an Adult Literacy Project (*Tina Tucker, Frances Mary D'Andrea, John Jay Frank*)
□AER240 Creating Educational Toys and Activities for Children Who Are Blind or Visually Impaired (*Lee-Anne Cross, Jennifer Regier*)
□AER241 Color Therapy + the Light Box (*Karen Nagel, Dr. Linda Mamer*)
□AER242 Can This Intersection Be Fixed? (*Janet M Barlow, Lukas Frank*)
□AER243 Access to Visual Learning Options for Students with Severe Low Vision (*Audrey Smith, Dr. Kathleen M. Huebner, Dr. Duane Geruschat, Laurel Leigh*)
□AER244 A Successful Strategy for Expanding Your Consumer Base Through the Application of Marketing Principles and Methods (*Betty Bird, Judith Millman, Janet Weinstein*)
□AER245 What's New in Low Vision Devices (*Bryan Gerritsen, Robert McGilliray*)
□AER247 Overcoming Employment Barriers (*Adele Crudden*)
□AER248 National Agenda for the Education of Children and Youth with Visual Impairments (*Kathleen Huebner, Donna Stryker, Dr. Karen Wolffe, Dr. Susan Spungin, Samantha Hoffman, Amanda Lueck, Ann MacCuspie*)
□AER249 Roundabouts and Pedestrians with Blindness and Visual Impairments (*Richard Long, Paul Ponchillia, David Guth, Dan Ashmead, Rob Wall*)
□AER250 Diabetes Visual Impairment (*Susan Ponchillia*)
□AER251 The Benefits of a Problem Based Learning Approach in Personnel Preparation Programs (*Cheryl Richesin, Veronica Veerman*)
□AER252 Incorporating the Visible Video Telescope (VVT300) into Orientation and Mobility Training Programs (*Wendy Nichols*)
□AER253 How Adults With Visual Impairment Access Information on Health Care (*Connie Kirchner, Elizabeth Ostrowski, Dr. Elaine Gerber, Maureen Duffy, Tina Tucker, Beth Sutton*)
□AER254 What's In Your Bag? Multi-Sensory Experiences for Children, Birth -3 (*Rebecca Murphy*)
□AER255 "Play" Your Way to Good Orientation and Mobility Skills in Young Children (*Sandra Strinweis*)
□AER256 Skill-Based Training: An RX for Employment (*Pris Rogers, Kathy Gallagher, Marie Simpson, Megan Merriwether, Jennifer Hansen, Tim Hindman*)

- ❑AER257 Strategies for Teaching and Enhancing Communication and O&M Skills for Children Who Have Autism and Are Blind/Visually Impaired (*Marilyn Gense, D. Jay Gense*)
- ❑AER258 Adaptive Tools and Technology for Teaching Visually Impaired Students Algebra and Geometry (*Susan A. Osterhaus*)
- ❑AER259 Looking to Learn: Promoting Literacy for Students with Low Vision (*Frances Mary D'Andrea, Carol Farrenkopf*)
- ❑AER260 Diagnosing Mood and Anxiety Disorders in Your Clients (*James Warnke, Wendy David*)
- ❑AER261 Location Literacy (*Michael May*)
- ❑AER262 Short Term Programs: A Ten Year Perspective (*Ann MacCuspie, Pam Rannelli*)

SATURDAY SESSIONS

- ❑AER263 General Session: Policy & Legislative Issues in Canada and the United States (*Mark Richert*)
- ❑AER264 Promoting Quality Literacy Instruction: Multimedia Resources (*Cay Holbrook, Alan J. Koenig*)
- ❑AER265 Research Roundtable Sponsored Workshop in Qualitative Methods (*Elaine Gerber, Beth Omansky Gordon, Corinne Kirchner, Karen Wolffe*)
- ❑AER266 Deafblindness and the Acquisition of Early Communicative Functions (*Susan M. Bruce*)
- ❑AER267 IEP Goals and Objectives for Using Optical Devices (*Erika Andersen, Jennifer Bell*)
- ❑AER268 Are Night Visual Devices Helpful for People with Retinitis Pigmentosa? (*Rickilyn Mancil, Bruce Blasch, Gary Mancil, Julie Monday*)
- ❑AER269 Creative Approaches to Teaching Problem Solving in O&M (*Fabiana Perla, Betsy O'Donnell*)
- ❑AER270 Looking for Textbooks, Downloadable Files, Transcribers and More? Check Into APH.ORG. (*Maria Delgado*)
- ❑AER271 I Have a Computer: Why Do I Need Braille? (*Gloria Wood-Gleespen*)
- ❑AER272 Practical Tips on Using Distance Learning Techniques (*Dr. Dixie Mercer, Frankie Swift*)
- ❑AER273 Distance Education in O&M Personnel Preparation (*Laurel Leigh*)
- ❑AER274 Ethical Issues in Rehabilitation Professions (*B.J. LeJeune*)
- ❑AER275 Using Video Magnifiers in School and Community (*Ike Presley, Mark Uslan, Sandra Lewis, Eileen Iglesias, Teri Robinette*)
- ❑AER276 Compensatory Instruction to Promote Vision Use for Students with Visual Impairments (*Amanda Hall Leuck*)
- ❑AER277 Helpful Tips and Advice on Writing for Publication (*Alan Koenig, Jane Erin*)
- ❑AER278 Creating Effective Public Education for the Older Low Vision Population (*Liz Greco-Rocks, Judy Scott*)
- ❑AER279 Report of Access Technology Competencies Task Force (*Anthony Candela, Gil Johnson, Karen Wolffe, Jay Stiteley*)
- ❑AER280 Another View of Cortical Visual Impairment (*Mary T. Morse*)
- ❑AER281 An Orientation and Mobility Teaching Approach for Guide Dog Travel (*Carole Zabihayl, Helene Guerette*)
- ❑AER282 Technology Empowerment for Students with a Visual Impairment (*Brian Charlson, Joanie Diggs, Carroll Center*)

- ❑AER283 Improving Mobility Through Tai-Chi (*Al Kaufman, Sally Eldridge*)
- ❑AER284 Giving Children a Head Start (*Sandra Lewis, Joan Tolla, Victoria Owen, Dafna Halpern*)
- ❑AER285 Keeping Kids Safe Without Sight \$22.00 (*Wendy David, James Warnke*) ...two cassettes
- ❑AER286 Sighted Partners Need Support, Too! (*Carol Sussman-Skalka, Majorie Cantor, Dr. Caryln Goodman, Linda Schulz*)
- ❑AER287 Paraprofessionals Erase the Doubts, Establish a Presence (*Paula Penrod, Jan Carrol*)
- ❑AER288 Eye on the Aging Eye (*Alfred Rosenbloom, Rosemary Janiszewski*)
- ❑AER289 Making Orientation and Mobility Work for the Student Who is Deafblind With Multiple Disabilities (*Doug McJannet*)
- ❑AER291 Guidelines for Computer Administered Testing of Students with Vision Impairments (*Barbara W. Henderson*)
- ❑AER292 Visual Impairment and Social Competence (*Elke Wagner*)
- ❑AER293 The Gifts of TVIs Trained in Early Childhood: A Triad Perspective (*Tanni L. Anthony*)
- ❑AER294 Services Offered in Residential Programs That Lead to Independence (*Brenda Mizzell-Graza, Joseph Catavern, James Barezak, Linda Ciero*)
- ❑AER295 Diabetes and Visual Employment in the Workplace (*Margaret Cleary*)

SUNDAY SESSIONS

- ❑AER296 McFarland III ...two cassettes \$22.00
- ❑AER297 Detection of Accessible Signals in Noise (*Robert Wall, Dr. Daniel Ashmead, Dr. Billie Louise Bentzen, Janet Barlow, Lukas Franck*)
- ❑AER298 A Survey of Leading Commercial Braille Music Translation Software Packages (*Geoff Sinclair, Karin Anckenthaler*)
- ❑AER299 How "Rethinking Unemployment" Can Change Lives (*Steve Sanford, Susan Hipple, Allen Anderson*)
- ❑AER2100 What Makes the Web Friendly for Surfers with a Visual Impairment (*George Abbott*)
- ❑AER2101 Quality Services for Deaf-Blind Consumers (*Nikki Llewellyn, Patti Lago-Avery, Matt Starr, Patty Starr*)
- ❑AER2102 State Assessment and Accountability Issues for Students with Visual Impairments (*Carol Allman*)
- ❑AER2103 Closing Brunch

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AERwaves

*By Mark Richert
Executive Director*

History is fascinating. I'll never forget learning for the first time many years ago about the "war of the dots," learning about the so-called civil war that generated a plurality of consumer groups in our field, and on and on. I remember thinking at one point, we sure are at war a lot. The thing is, wars are expensive, and how we've been able to afford them (time, money or energy), is beyond me. I don't know about you, but I do find some comfort in knowing that our field is not alone in these kinds of struggles. For example, the deaf community has had to struggle mightily, and still wrestles today, with oralism versus sign. I was horrified to learn that, not all that long ago, in order to prevent children from using sign, some schools for children with hearing impairments allowed or even encouraged their staff to bind stu-

dents' hands or to tie their wrists to their desks or the arms of their chairs. Decency demands disgust at such a practice. It's truly amazing what lengths to which some self-styled experts who work with people with disabilities will go — human dignity is thrown out the window in order to satisfy some theorist's pet notion of what's best for another human being.

We struggle with this same kind of issue in our own field in a way. Many visually impaired folks, individuals who may have a fair amount of usable vision, are ridiculed and told that they are not "well adjusted" because they may be reluctant to receive orientation and mobility training and other services under blindfold. Some consumer advocates and public and private service agencies have morphed the use of the blindfold from a legitimate and individually appropriate training technique when the consumer's choice and the professional's judgment deem it valuable into an initiation rite and litmus test

of emotional maturity. How perverse. Of course, a few at the opposite end of the spectrum may respond to occlusion in an equally dogmatic way. When we allow techniques for training to become tenets of faith, we constrain the very individuals we serve and bind their individuality with the frayed bands of our own prejudice born of insecurity. Now I'm well aware that some of those individuals and agencies who preach blindfolding are not true converts to that creedal formula—they have simply capitulated to the politics in our field. But honoring human differences and meeting individual needs is a calling that can survive hypocrisy as well as zealotry. We who are called to provide services meeting those individual needs, we who are called AER, hold a sacred trust founded on the uniqueness of both what we do and whom we serve. Our professionalism is the blindness field's riches. Let us be good stewards, guard them well and invest them wisely. ■

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